



Oklahoma judge rules against drugmaker, orders \$572M payment

By SEAN MURPHY

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — An Oklahoma judge on Monday found Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries helped fuel the state's opioid crisis and ordered the consumer products giant to pay \$572 million, more than twice the amount another drug manufacturer agreed to pay in a settlement.

Cleveland County District Judge Thad Balkman's ruling followed the first state opioid case to make it to trial and could help shape negotiations over roughly 1,500 similar lawsuits filed by state, local and tribal governments consolidated before a federal judge in Ohio.

"The opioid crisis has ravaged the state of Oklahoma," Balkman said before announcing the judgment. "It must be abated immediately."

An attorney for the companies said they plan to appeal the ruling to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Before Oklahoma's trial began May 28, the state reached settlements with two other defendant groups — a \$270 million



Judge Thad Balkman arrives to give his decision in the Opioid Lawsuit in Norman, Okla., Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

deal with OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma and an \$85 million settlement with Israeli-owned Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

Oklahoma argued the

companies and their subsidiaries created a public nuisance by launching an aggressive and misleading marketing campaign that overstated how effective

the drugs were for treating chronic pain and understated the risk of addiction. Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter says opioid overdoses killed 4,653 people in the state from 2007 to 2017. Hunter called Johnson & Johnson a "kingpin" company that was motivated by greed.

Continued on Next Page

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He specifically pointed to two former Johnson & Johnson subsidiaries, Noramco and Tasmanian Alkaloids, which produced much of the raw opium used by other manufacturers to produce the drugs. On Monday, Hunter said the Oklahoma case could provide a "road map" for other states to follow in holding drugmakers responsible for the opioid crisis.

"That's the message to other states: We did it in Oklahoma. You can do it elsewhere," Hunter said. "Johnson & Johnson will finally be held accountable for thousands of deaths and addictions caused by their activities."

Among those seated in the courtroom on Monday were Craig and Gail Box, whose son Austin was a 22-year-old standout linebacker for the Oklahoma Sooners when he died of a prescription drug overdose in 2011.

One of the attorneys for the state, Reggie Whitten, said he also lost a son to opioid abuse.

"I feel like my boy is looking down," Whitten said after the judge's ruling, his voice

cracking with emotion. Oklahoma pursued the case under the state's public nuisance statute and presented the judge with a plan to abate the crisis that would cost between \$12.6 billion for 20 years and \$17.5 billion over 30 years. Attorneys for Johnson & Johnson have said that estimate is wildly inflated. The judge's award would cover the costs of one year of the state's abatement plan, funding things like opioid use prevention and addiction treatment.

Attorneys for the company have maintained they were part of a lawful and heavily regulated industry subject to strict federal oversight, including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Food and Drug Administration, during every step of the supply chain. Lawyers for the company said the judgment was a misapplication of public nuisance law.

Sabrina Strong, an attorney for Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries, said the companies have sympathy for those who suffer from substance abuse but called the judge's decision "flawed."



Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter, center, smiles as he answers a question during a news conference following the announcement of the Opioid Lawsuit decision in Norman, Okla., Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

"You can't sue your way out of the opioid abuse crisis," Strong said. "Litigation is not the answer."

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the cases consolidated before a federal judge in Ohio called the Oklahoma judgment "a milestone amid the mounting evidence against the opioid pharmaceutical industry."

"While public nuisance laws differ in every state,

this decision is a critical step forward for the more than 2,000 cities, counties, and towns we represent in the consolidation of federal opioid cases," they said in a statement. Also on Monday, the Kentucky Supreme Court declined to review an earlier ruling, making previously secret testimony from former Purdue Pharma President Richard Sackler and other doc-

uments public. The court record was sealed in 2015 as part of a \$24 million settlement between Purdue and Kentucky. The 17 million pages of documents were being shipped Monday from Frankfort to Pike County, where the case originated. The Pike County Circuit Court Clerk's office could not immediately say how and when they would be available. □

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After cancer treatment, Ruth Bader Ginsburg in NY for honorary degree



Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks about her work and gender equality following a ceremony where she received a SUNY Honorary Degree from the University at Buffalo, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, in Buffalo N.Y.

Associated Press

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

AMHERST, N.Y. (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg gave University at Buffalo law students a memorable start to the new academic

year Monday when she accepted an honorary degree on campus and talked about her dedication to equal rights and the "Notorious R.B.G" nickname. The 86-year-old justice re-

cently completed radiation therapy for a cancerous tumor on her pancreas, but said she did not want her health problems to stop her from fulfilling a commitment she made last year to a fellow Cornell University alumni and lawyer, Wayne Wisbaum, who has since died.

"I didn't know this day would be preceded by three weeks of daily radiation," Ginsburg said later during an event for the area legal community, "but I said 'I will not cancel Buffalo.'"

The Supreme Court announced Friday that Ginsburg underwent outpatient radiation therapy beginning Aug. 5. It said there is no evidence of the disease remaining.

She called her contributions to gender equality "exhilarating." □



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Lawsuit filed over rollback of child immigrant protections

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Nineteen states and the District of Columbia sued on Monday over the Trump administration's effort to alter a federal agreement that limits how long immigrant children can be kept in detention.

"We wish to protect children from irreparable harm," California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said as he announced the lawsuit he is co-leading with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. Both are Democrats.

A 1997 agreement known as the Flores settlement says immigrant children must be kept in the least restrictive setting and generally shouldn't spend more than 20 days in detention.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said last week it would create new regulations on how migrant children are treated. The administration wants to remove court oversight and allow families in detention longer than 20 days. About 475,000 families have crossed the border so far this budget year, nearly three times the previous full-year record for families.

A judge must OK the Trump administration's proposed changes in order to end the agreement, and a legal battle is expected from the case's original lawyers. It's not likely that U.S. District Court Judge Dolly Gee would approve the changes; it was her ruling in 2015 that extended the application of the Flores agreement to include children who came with families.

She ordered the Obama administration to release children as quickly as possible.

Still, Becerra argued California has a role to play in

the case because the state is home to so many immigrants.

"The federal government doesn't have a right to tell us how we provide for the well-being of people in our state," he said.

California does not have any detention centers that house migrant families. The Trump administration argued that because no states license federal detention centers, they wanted to create their own set of standards in order to satisfy the judge's requirements that the facilities are licensed.

They said they will be audited, and the audits made public. But the Flores attorneys are concerned that they will no longer be able to inspect the facilities, and that careful state licensing requirements will be eschewed.

Becerra echoed that argument, saying that removing state authority over licensing centers could allow the federal government to place centers in California or other states that don't meet basic standards of care.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson of Washington, also a Democrat, said prolonged detention will have long-term impacts on the mental and physical health of immigrant children and families.

"When we welcome those children into our communities, state-run programs and services bear the burden of the long-term impact of the trauma those children endured in detention," he said.

California on Monday also sought to halt a Trump administration effort that could deny green cards to immigrants using public benefits.

Other states joining the law-



Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson talks to reporters, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, during a news conference in Seattle.

Associated Press

suit are Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota,

Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. □

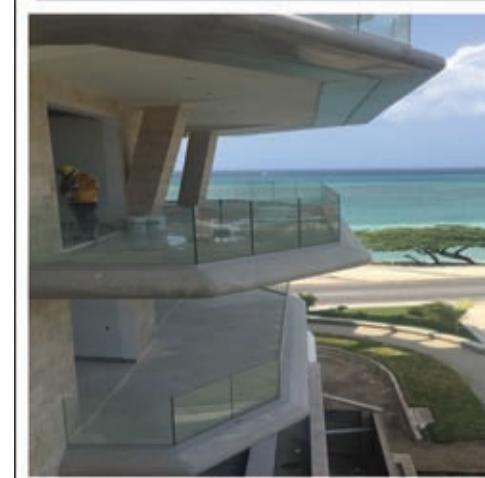
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GOP Rep. Sean Duffy of Wisconsin resigning from Congress

By SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republican Rep. Sean Duffy, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump who was on the cast of MTV's "The Real World" before he went into politics, announced Monday that he is resigning from his Wisconsin congressional seat to spend more time with his family.

Duffy, 47, posted on Facebook that he recently learned that his ninth child, who is due in October, has a heart condition and "will need even more love, time, and attention due to complications."

Duffy, who was on "The Real World: Boston" in 1997, plans to resign on Sept. 23. Democratic Gov. Tony Evers will call a special election to fill the vacancy and is researching options for when to hold it, said the governor's spokeswoman,



In this July 18, 2018, file photo, Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wisc., asks a question of Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell during a House Committee on Financial Services hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Melissa Baldauff. The fifth-term congressman represents Wisconsin's 7th District, which covers all or parts of 20 northern and

northwestern Wisconsin counties and is the state's largest congressional district, geographically. It has grown more conserva-

tive since Duffy took office in 2011. In 2012, Republican Mitt Romney carried the district with 51% of the vote, compared with 48%

that went to then-President Barack Obama. In 2016, Trump won it by 57% to 37% over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Duffy has been widely mentioned as a possible candidate for U.S. Senate or governor in 2022. Duffy leaves Congress with about \$2.4 million in his campaign fund, based on the most recent report that ran through June 30.

In his resignation announcement, Duffy said being away from his family for four days a week to serve in Congress is "challenging" and "I have always been open to signs from God when it comes to balancing my desire to serve both my family and my country." "I have decided that this is the right time for me to take a break from public service in order to be the support my wife, baby and family need right now," Duffy said. □



In this Aug. 15, 2019, file photo, marijuana grows at an indoor cannabis farm in Gardena, Calif.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department said Monday it would move forward to expand the number of marijuana growers for federally authorized cannabis research.

The long-awaited move

comes after researchers filed court papers asking a judge to compel the Drug Enforcement Administration to process the applications to grow research pot. The DEA began accepting applications to grow marijuana for federally approved research about

DOJ moves to add more marijuana growers for research

three years ago, but the agency hasn't acted on the applications.

Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers in Congress have questioned why the Justice Department has taken so long to act. Attorney General William Barr had promised to look into the status of the applications in April.

Facing a deadline to respond to a court filing, the DEA signaled Monday it will process 33 applications with the goal of helping scientists develop "safe and effective drug products."

In June, applicant Scottsdale Research Institute in Arizona asked the U.S.

Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to order the DEA to process the applications. The court told the DEA to respond by Wednesday. Dr. Sue Sisley of the research institute said she considers this a victory.

For years, the University of Mississippi has been the only entity federally licensed to produce marijuana for research. Researchers have complained in recent years that the cannabis produced there is not like the cannabis sold in states where medical and so-called recreational marijuana is legal.

"This is why we filed this law-

suit: to get this program moving after three years of stagnancy," said Matthew Zorn, an attorney who represents the Scottsdale Research Institute.

The move announced Monday would give researchers a wider variety of cannabis to study, Utam Dhillon, the DEA's acting administrator, said in a statement.

"DEA is making progress in the program to register additional marijuana growers for federally authorized research, and will work with other relevant federal agencies to expedite the necessary next steps," Dhillon said. □

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Florida nursing home employees charged in patient deaths

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)

— Four employees of a Florida nursing home where 12 people died in sweltering heat after a hurricane cut power were charged Monday, at least three of them with aggravated manslaughter, their attorneys said.

Nursing home patients at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, ranging in age from 57 to 99, began dying three days after Hurricane Irma swept through in September 2017.

The center, which housed about 150 patients at the time, did not evacuate any of the residents as the temperature began rising, even though a fully functional hospital was across the street, investigators said. The home's license was suspended days after the storm and it was later closed.

Former Rehabilitation Center nurse Sergo Colin and administrator Jorge Carballo were each charged with 12 counts of aggravated manslaughter, according to jail records. Nurse Althia Meggie was charged with two counts of aggravated manslaughter and two counts of tampering with evidence.

All three turned themselves in at the Broward County Jail on Monday and were scheduled to appear in court Tuesday, their attorneys said.

Nurse Tamika Miller was being held in the Miami-Dade County jail on unspecified charges, according to the jail's website. She was awaiting transfer to Bro-

ward County.

Hollywood Police spokeswoman Miranda Grossman said authorities would withhold comment until a news conference planned for Tuesday.

Attorney Jim Cobb said none of the employees understood why they were being charged. He said Carballo and other administrators were repeatedly told before the storm that they could call then-Gov. Rick Scott's personal cellphone directly for help. Cobb said they called five times, but never heard back from Scott.

Cobb said the administrators "sat there languishing waiting for the cavalry to come. ... They never, ever came."

Attorney Lawrence Hashish remarked that "the real crime is that the state is looking to blame selfless caregivers and the evidence will show that no crime was committed."

Scott, now a U.S. senator, said in a statement that the nursing home should have called 911.

"Nothing can hide the fact that this healthcare facility failed to do their basic duty to protect life," he said.

But attorney David Frankel insisted that the staff did everything they could to keep the patients, some of them in hospice, cool and hydrated. They brought in small air conditioners and fans, he said.

He also criticized the notion from investigators and some family members of the deceased that staff should have taken the patients across the street to



Attorneys for the defendants Lawrence Hashish, left, David Frankel, right, and paralegal Juliana Marulanda, center, walk into the Broward County Jail on Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

the air-conditioned Memorial Regional Hospital. He said the hospital had been sending patients to the nursing home.

"These were very fragile people," he said. "Evacuating them could have caused more damage."

Memorial spokeswoman Kerting Baldwin said she couldn't immediately confirm or deny that the hospital sent patients to the nursing home but said "that would be unusual." She said if the nursing home was asked to take patients and its air conditioning was out, it should have declined.

Memorial's doctors and staff began evacuating the nursing home after several dead and seriously ill patients arrived in the hospital's emergency room.

Frankel also criticized Flori-

da Power & Light, which he said was supposed to arrive within six hours after the first patient became acutely ill. FPL issued a statement Monday noting that some parts of the home did have power restored after the storm, but Frankel said the blown transformer that had caused the air conditioning to fail was never fixed.

In its statement, Florida Power & Light added that "those customers who have electricity dependent medical needs should call 911 if they are without power and in a life-threatening situation."

Craig Wohlitka and other paramedics from Hollywood Fire-Rescue testified last year that they were haunted by the deaths of patients at the home.

Fire Lt. Amy Parrinello said

one of the female patients had a temperature of 107.5 degrees (42 Celsius), the highest she had ever seen in her 12-year career. Later that morning, she said, another patient topped that with a temperature so high it couldn't be measured.

The deaths at the nursing home recalled a similar tragedy in New Orleans in 2005: Moments after Hurricane Katrina ruptured levees, floodwaters filled St. Rita's nursing home, rising to the ceiling of the one-story facility in a matter of minutes and killing 35 patients. The home's owners, Salvatore and Mabel Mangano, were acquitted of negligent homicide and cruelty charges by a jury that deliberated for less than two hours. Cobb was their attorney. □

Arpaio makes comeback bid for sheriff's post he lost in 2016

By JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Joe Arpaio, the Arizona lawman known for leading immigration crackdowns, jailing inmates in tents and receiving a pardon from President Donald Trump, is running for his former job as the sheriff of metro Phoenix after getting trounced in 2016 by a little-known challenger.

Arpaio, who also was crushed in a 2018 bid for the U.S. Senate, said his comeback bid isn't about clearing his name, avenging his last two election losses or garnering publicity for himself. He said he's seeking a seventh term as sheriff because thousands of supporters have urged him to run again.

"One day, I have to retire," the 87-year-old said. "I'm not ready yet."

If he wins back his old job next year, Arpaio said he would resume immigration crackdowns, focus on drug enforcement and reopen the complex of jail tents that were closed by his successor, Sheriff Paul Penzone.

During his tenure as sheriff, he conducted dozens of immigration crackdowns over a nine-year period, retaliated against political enemies and failed to investigate more than



In this May 22, 2018, file photo, former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio speaks during a campaign event in Phoenix. In this May 22, 2018, file photo, former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio speaks during a campaign event in Phoenix.

Associated Press

400 sex-crimes complaints made to his office.

After he was beaten by Penzone, Arpaio was convicted of contempt of court for disobeying a judge's 2011 order in a racial profiling case to stop his traffic patrols that targeted immigrants.

He was spared a possible jail sentence when Trump pardoned his misdemeanor conviction, which wouldn't have barred Arpaio from running for office again.

Arpaio will face his former chief deputy, Jerry Sheri-

dan, and Glendale Officer Mike Crawford in the Republican primary. Penzone is vying against William Hall in the Democratic primary.

Sheridan, who also wants to bring back the complex of jail tents, said he was disappointed that his old boss had entered the race. While Arpaio disputes it, Sheridan said Arpaio didn't deliver on his promise to endorse him.

"He was a very good sheriff in many ways, but also was not engaged in the daily operations of the sheriff's

office," Sheridan said. "He left it up to me for the last six years I was his chief deputy."

Penzone didn't mention Arpaio in a statement that he issued Monday about the race. In the statement, Penzone said he has worked to bring professionalism and transparency to the office. "The heightened level of professionalism, emphasis on accountability, fiscal responsibility, reduction of lawsuits, and focus on public safety cannot be denied," Penzone said.

Before Arpaio was voted out of office, the agency was put under the supervision of a federal judge who in 2013 concluded Latinos were racially profiled during Arpaio's immigration patrols.

The taxpayer bill from the profiling verdict is expected to reach \$150 million by the summer of 2020. No one involved in the case or in county government can say exactly when the financial hemorrhaging will slow down or end.

About \$54 million of the spending in the profiling case came during Arpaio's tenure. Additionally, Maricopa County paid for \$90 million for judgments, settlements and legal fees in defending the sheriff's office in other lawsuits when Arpaio led the agency.

Even though Arpaio insists he can resume immigration crackdowns, the sheriff's office is barred from detaining Latino drivers or passengers based on only the belief they are in country illegally.

Arpaio also touted his volunteer posse investigation into the authenticity of then-President Barack Obama's birth certificate. He wasn't promising action on the debunked controversy, but promoted it as an accomplishment. □

Newark to speed replacing of pipes blamed for lead in water

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's biggest city on Monday announced a plan to borrow \$120 million to dramatically cut the time it will take to replace pipes causing elevated lead levels in drinking water.

City, state and county officials said the plan is expected to cut the time from 10 years to under 30 months to replace about 18,000 lead lines in Newark. The announcement came about two weeks after the city began distributing water bottles to residents in about 14,000 homes. Water from two houses tested positive for lead above

the federal threshold of 15 parts per billion.

The plan depends on approval by city and county officials, who are expected to vote on the \$120 million bond proposal Tuesday.

Authorities had called on the federal government to help but said Monday they would move forward with their own plan to speed lead pipe replacement.

"We couldn't wait for them to react," Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo said. "We had to do it first." Prior to the start of the MTV Video Music Awards in Newark on Monday, a group of about 75 clean water activists marched up to the corner of the Pru-

ential Center, the Asbury Park Press reported.

The protesters chanted, "We don't want no MTV, we want our water lead free," according to the newspaper.

Nearly 800 lines have been replaced since March, using money from the state. Homeowners were going to be responsible for paying 10% of the replacement cost since the lines aren't owned by the city, but officials said they won't have to pay under the plan announced Monday. Newark passed out nearly 40,000 water filters beginning last year but had to start handing out bottled water two weeks ago af-

ter a few homes using the filters had higher-than-expected lead levels.

The lead is leaching into the water from pipes and is not originating from the source water.

Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, stressed again Monday that just two homes that were using the filters had tested positive for lead.

The state Department of Environmental Protection said last week that 225 additional homes are being tested, a process that will last a few more weeks. Residents will receive bottled water while the testing continues.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka,

also a Democrat, declined to detail any results from the most recent round of testing.

The city is also awaiting a decision from a federal judge in a motion filed by an environmental group to force the city to expand the water distribution program to cover additional residents. A decision is expected soon. The Natural Resources Defense Council says those residents also are at risk from excessive lead levels, in part due to the blending of water from another plant — something the city has said it discontinued by closing gates and valves between the two sources. □

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Maryland pet stores sue to block state ban on dog, cat sales

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — Pet stores are suing to block a Maryland law that will bar them from selling commercially bred dogs and cats, a measure billed as a check against unlicensed and substandard "puppy mills."

The stores' federal lawsuit, filed Friday, challenges a ban set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2020. Maryland is the second state, after California, to pass such restrictions on the sale of dogs and cats.

The pet stores fear the ban will put them out of business. Their suit says animal welfare organizations have made unfounded claims that pet stores are fueling the growth of puppy mills. Charm City Puppies manager Becky Schmidt, whose Columbia store is one of the plaintiffs, said it only uses breeders that are "quality-inspected" and federally regulated.

"If anything, if our doors close, it's going to force consumers to have to go to the unregulated, uninspected sources," Schmidt said Monday. The lawsuit claims the ban effectively will do just that, shifting the sale of puppies from regulated retailers to unregulated sources, such as sellers placing ads on the internet or in newspapers.

"Internet pet sales have a notoriously high incidence of fraud and scams which will only increase against Maryland residents once the ban takes effect," the suit says.

Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, signed the legislation into law in April 2018.

The first law of this kind took effect in January in California. It prohibits pet stores from selling a dog, cat, or rabbit unless it came from an animal shelter or rescue group. Some local governments, including in Maryland, already have enacted similar measures. Maine's Legislature passed a bill limiting sales of dogs and cats by pet shops, but Gov. Janet Mills is holding it until January.

Maryland's law encourages animal welfare organizations to collaborate with retail pet stores to showcase cats and dogs for adoption or purchase from "local breeders," according to a summary of the legislation prepared by state analysts. The pet stores' lawsuit claims the ban is unconstitutional, violating the Commerce Clause. The legislation's intent to facilitate sales from local breeders discriminates against out-of-state breeders and brokers, the suit says.

"The Maryland Pet Store Ban's purpose is to remove Maryland from the nationwide market of pet sales in stores in hopes of eradicating the so-called puppy mill industry. However, a State may not achieve a local economic goal by isolating itself from the national economy," the suit says.

State Sen. Ben Kramer, a Democrat who sponsored the legislation when he served in the state House of Delegates, said retail sales of dogs are keeping puppy mills in business.

"The puppy mills are just absolutely disgusting and barbaric," Kramer said. "The puppy mills don't exist without the retail stores that sell



A puppy plays with toys at a pet store in Columbia, Md., Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

them."

Plaintiffs' attorney Jonathan Kagan said the sale of dogs and cats is the primary source of revenue for pet stores that are suing.

"These are smaller pet stores that have been around for a while," he said. "They are not going to be able to compete with PetSmart or Petco if they're just selling (pet) accessories."

John Goodwin, senior director of the Stop Puppy

Mills campaign for the Humane Society of the U.S., said dog and cat sales account for a small fraction of the multibillion-dollar pet

industry. "There are thousands of small independent pet stores that thrive on selling products and services," he added.

Kagan said Maryland already had strict laws "with high standards for stores" before the passage of the 2018 legislation. Kramer, however, said the pet stores "basically thumbed their noses at the new requirements that were in place."

The plaintiffs also include pet store operators Just Puppies Inc. and Today's Pet Inc. Also named as plaintiffs are a Missouri-

based commercial dog breeder and a commercial dog broker that supply the Maryland pet stores with dogs.

The defendants include the state Senate's finance committee and Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, whose office will be responsible for enforcing the ban.

Schmidt, the Columbia store's manager, said 20 employees will lose their jobs and customers will lose access to purebred puppies if the store has to close. "There's a whole trickle-down effect," she said. □

G-7 nations pledge \$40 million to fight Amazon fires

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO
CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

PORTO VELHO, Brazil (AP)

— The Group of Seven nations on Monday pledged tens of millions of dollars to help fight raging wildfires in the Amazon and protect its rainforest, even as Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro accused rich countries of treating the region like a "colony."

The international pledges at a G-7 summit in France included \$20 million from the group, as well as a separate \$12 million from Britain and \$11 million from Canada. Ottawa has also offered to send firefighting planes to Brazil.

Other groups are contributing support for a region whose rainforests are a major absorber of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Earth Alliance, a new environmental foundation backed by Leonardo DiCaprio, is pledging \$5 million in aid, saying the Amazon is one of the "best defenses" against climate change.

The funds are widely seen as critical support, but a relatively small amount for dealing with an environmental crisis of such scale threatening what French President Emmanuel Macron called "the lungs of the planet."

More than \$1 billion, for example, has been paid into a fund to help the Amazon in the past decade. And major donors Germany and Norway recently cut donations to Brazilian forestry projects, saying Bolsonaro's administration isn't committed to curbing deforestation.

It was unclear how exactly the new money would be administered. Bureaucracy can slow and reduce the amount that reaches programs in the field. Brazil's environment minister, Ricardo Salles, said the aid was welcome and that Brazil should decide how the resources are used.

More global funding and political will in Brazil will be needed once the fires are extinguished, said John Robinson, chief conserva-



A fire burns along the road to Jacunda National Forest, near the city of Porto Velho in the Vila Nova Samuel region which is part of Brazil's Amazon, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

tion officer at the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Brazil needs "legislation and regulations that set clear limits preventing landowners — especially large ones — from burning the forest and converting it to agriculture and rangeland, backed by incentives and investment in alternatives," Robinson said.

The international pledges came despite tensions between European countries and the Brazilian president, who suggested the West was angling to exploit Brazil's natural resources.

"Look, does anyone help anyone ... without something in return? What have they wanted there for so long?" Bolsonaro said.

Bolsonaro has insulted adversaries and allies, disparaged women, black and gay people, and praised his country's 1964-1985 dictatorship. But nothing has rallied more anger at home and criticism from abroad than his response to the fires in parts of the Amazon region.

The Brazilian leader says he is committed to protecting the Amazon and prosecuting anyone involved in illegal fires, many of which appear to be to have been set in already deforested areas to clear land for farming.

But Bolsonaro initially questioned whether activist

groups might have started the fires in an effort to damage the credibility of his government, which has called for looser environmental regulations in the world's largest rainforest to spur development.

"We believe that there are many mining companies and lumber companies and farmers who feel that the president has their backs," said Raoni Metuktire, a Brazilian indigenous chief and environmentalist who traveled to the G-7 summit in Biarritz.

In response, European leaders threatened to block a major trade deal with Brazil that would benefit the very agricultural interests accused of driving deforestation.

The impact of the fires and smoke has disrupted life for many in the Amazon region. The airport in Porto Velho, the capital of Rondonia state, was closed for more than an hour Monday morning because of poor visibility. On Sunday, a soccer match of a lower-tier national league was briefly suspended because of smoke in Rio Branco, capital of Acre state, as fire burned in a field outside the stadium.

In Para state, where fires have swept many areas, resident Moacir Cordeiro said he was worried about their impact on nature and

his health. Smoke rose from nearby trees as he spoke.

"I don't think there are enough people to extinguish the fires," said Cordeiro, who lives in the Alvorada da Amazonia region. He said it was difficult to breath at night because of the smoke.

Another man, Antonio de Jesus, was also worried.

"Nature shouldn't be killed off like that," he said.

Macron said the Amazon, while mostly Brazilian, is a world issue and that his message to Bolsonaro is: "We cannot allow you to destroy everything."

Brazil's sovereignty must be respected, Macron said, but the world can help Brazil reforest and build its economy "while respecting the natural balance."

About 60 percent of the Amazon region is in Brazil; the vast forest also spans parts of Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru and Suriname.

Speaking on French TV after hosting the G-7 summit, Macron acknowledged that Europe, by importing soya from Brazil, shares some blame for the agricultural pressure on the rainforest.

He added that Europe's dependence on imported proteins, including soya, for animal feed is "a very bad choice" and that he wants

Europe to develop alternate sources of protein.

Bolsonaro has accused Macron of treating the region "as if we were a colony." Bolsonaro has announced he would send 44,000 soldiers to help battle the blazes, and military planes began dumping water on fires in the Amazon state of Rondonia.

The move was welcomed by many critics, but some say it's not enough and comes too late.

In violating environmental agreements, Brazil has been discredited and "unable to exercise any type of leadership on the international stage," said Mauricio Santoro, an international relations professor at Rio de Janeiro State University.

Critics say the large number of fires this year has been stoked by Bolsonaro's encouragement of farmers, loggers and ranchers to speed efforts to strip away forest. Although Bolsonaro has now vowed to protect the area, they say it is only out of fear of a diplomatic crisis and economic losses.

Fires are common during Brazil's dry season, but the numbers surged this year. The country's National Space Research Institute, which monitors deforestation, has recorded more than 77,000 wildfires in Brazil this year, a record since the institute began keeping track in 2013. That is an 85% rise over last year, and about half of the fires have been in the Amazon region — with more than half of those coming just in the past month.

Rómulo Batista, a member of Greenpeace Brazil's Amazonia Campaign, said "the rise in deforestation can completely alter the rain patterns by region and devastate agriculture, even in South America." Brazil's federal police agency announced that it would investigate reports that farmers in Para state had called for "a day of fire" on Aug. 10 to ignite fires. Local media said a group organized the action over WhatsApp to show support for Bolsonaro's efforts to loosen environmental regulations. □

Italian opposition leader 'optimistic' coalition can be formed

ROME (AP) — The head of Italy's opposition Democrats expressed optimism Monday a deal can be struck with the populist 5-Star Movement to form a new government of rivals that would keep right-wing leader Matteo Salvini out of power and possibly bring back the same premier who quit barely a week ago, reflecting the topsy-turvy state of the country's politics.

Late in the evening, Democratic Party chief Nicola Zingaretti headed back to Chigi Palace, the premier's office, for talks with 5-Star Leader Luigi Di Maio as well as with caretaker Premier Giuseppe Conte, who quit his post last week after Salvini yanked his right-wing League's support for the government.

The huddle was reported to be still underway after midnight, several hours after Conte returned from the just-ended G-7 summit in France to begin discussions in Rome.



Secretary of the Italian Democratic Party (PD), Nicola Zingaretti, talks to the press outside the centre-left party headquarters in Rome, Italy, Monday, Aug. 26 2019.

Associated Press

Earlier, Zingaretti told reporters that his previous meeting with Movement leader Luigi Di Maio was "positive."

"I believe we're on the right path," Zingaretti said. "We had asked that we start off

discussing ideas and content, and tonight we'll go into details, I'm optimistic." The choice of who would become premier — possibly Conte again — has been looming as a major hurdle, especially since

Zingaretti has been demanding that any new government break with the past.

But Conte's participation in the talks signaled he might head the government to replace the one that just

collapsed, but instead of a 5-Star coalition with Salvini's League party, the new coalition would forge an alliance with the Movement and the center-left Democrats.

Conte quit last week after Salvini, riding a wave of popularity, yanked support for the nearly 15-month-old government in a bid to trigger new elections the League leader bets will bring him the premiership.

In announcing his resignation, Conte blamed his demise on the disloyalty of his right-wing Interior Minister Salvini and blasted the anti-migrant League leader's blatant personal ambitions in sabotaging the coalition in pursuit of elections.

Just ahead of the late night session, Zingaretti had evaded questions on whether Conte, a non-partisan who enjoys 5-Star support might be tapped to forge another coalition that this time shuts out Salvini and his nationalist League party. □

Thousands in Mozambique rebuild after devastating cyclones

By ANDREW MELDRUM

VINHO, Mozambique (AP)

— When Cyclone Idai roared through central Mozambique in March, it made some 200,000 people homeless and destroyed about 2 million acres of crops.

"The winds blew, the rains poured and the river flooded," said farmer Fernando Amis. "It happened very quickly. Before we knew it the water was up to our necks."

Amis, 63, said he had never seen such destruction. "Our homes were ruined, our clothes and possessions were swept away," he said. "We were wet and had no food. It was terrible."

Weeks later a second cyclone hit northern Mozambique, the first time since record-keeping began that two major cyclones hit the southern African country in a single year. Together the two storms affected 3 million people, according to the U.N.

Five months after the cata-



In this photo taken Friday, Aug. 23, 2019, a woman plasters her home after Cyclone Idai ruined the home and destroyed possessions on the outskirts of Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique.

Associated Press

clysmic storms, Amis is one of the scores of thousands of Mozambicans busy rebuilding their homes, fields and lives. He and his three wives are constructing seven buildings of wooden poles that they plaster with mud and cover with

thatched roofs. After losing their entire maize crop, they are growing a crop of sugar beans that will provide food for their 12 children and will also be sold for cash.

The Amis family benefited from living near Gorongosa

National Park which distributed immediate food aid, blankets and seeds to help those living in the buffer zones around the park.

"We are so grateful. We got seeds from the park and advice about how to plant our bean crop so it will be

productive," said Amis. "The park will also help us find a market for the beans."

When Cyclone Idai first hit, the park responded by buying food and supplies at the local market and delivering it to flooded families. The park is supported by the Gorongosa Restoration Project, a non-profit group supported by American philanthropist Greg Carr, that cooperates with Mozambique's government. The group spends more than half of its annual budget on supporting the local community.

"We were the first responders and we dropped food to people by helicopters," said Edson Carneiro, 29, the park's agriculture manager. "We did that for a month and distributed 97 tons of food that we purchased ourselves."

The park then worked with the U.N.'s World Food Program and distributed more than 500 tons of World Food Program aid between April and July, he said. □

Lebanon: Israeli air force hits Palestinian base in Lebanon

By BASSEM MROUE

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli drones bombed a Palestinian base in eastern Lebanon near the border with Syria early Monday amid rising tensions in the Middle East, the Lebanese state-run National News Agency and a Palestinian official said.

The strike came a day after an alleged Israeli drone crashed in a stronghold of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah in southern Beirut while another exploded and crashed nearby.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun told the U.N. Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Jan Kubis, that the attacks violate a U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah.

"What happened is equal to a declaration of war and gives us the right to defend our sovereignty, independence, and the safety of our land," Aoun said in comments released by his office Monday. "We are



Spanish U.N. peacekeepers patrol the Lebanese side of the Lebanese-Israeli border in the southern village of Kfar Kila, Lebanon, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

people who seek peace and not war, and we don't accept that anyone to threatens us though any means."

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said later Monday

that the U.N. took note of Aoun's statements and reiterated the U.N. appeal to stop violations of the Security Council resolution and implement all its provisions. "The U.N. calls on the par-

ties to exercise maximum restraint, both in action and in rhetoric," Dujarric said. The Lebanese state news agency report said there were three strikes after midnight on Sunday, minutes

apart, that struck a base for a Syrian-backed group known as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, an ally of Hezbollah.

Abu Wael Issam, an official with the Palestinian group in Lebanon, told The Associated Press that the strike was carried out by Israeli drones and did not inflict any casualties. He accused the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is using such attacks to boost his credentials ahead of Israel's parliamentary elections next month.

He said the Palestinian group's "alternatives are open in confronting the Zionist enemy" but didn't specify how or if it would retaliate. A statement issued later by the group said "the Zionist aggression" will not stop the group and its allies. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the strike, which the Lebanese news agency said hit near the village of Qusaya in the eastern Bekaa Valley. □

Iran says oil on tanker pursued by US sold; buyer unnamed

By NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran on Monday announced that the 2.1 million barrels of crude aboard an Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. has been sold to an unnamed buyer as the ship, at the center of a crisis roiling the region, continued its voyage in the Mediterranean Sea.

The announcement by government spokesman Ali Rabiei represent just the latest twist in the saga of the Adrian Darya 1, which had been known as the Grace 1 when authorities seized the vessel off Gibraltar on July 4, on suspicion of breaking European Union sanctions targeting Syria.

The seizure of the ship, and Iran's subsequent seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker, came amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran over the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Speaking to journalists Monday in Tehran, Rabiei



A supertanker hosting an Iranian flag is seen on the water in the British territory of Gibraltar, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

declined to name the oil's buyer, nor terms for the sale. At market rates, the crude oil aboard the Adrian Darya would be worth about \$130 million. However, anyone buying it likely would be targeted by U.S. financial sanctions.

"The buyer of the oil de-

cides where its destination is," Rabiei said, adding that the world is "witnessing the wrong policy by the U.S. in monitoring and intervention in others' internal affairs."

The Adrian Darya's detention and later release by Gibraltar have added fuel

to the growing tensions between Washington and Tehran, after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago over concerns about Iran's ballistic missile program and regional influ-

ence. In the time since, Iran has lost billions of dollars in business deals allowed by the deal, as the U.S. re-imposed and escalated sanctions largely blocking Tehran from selling crude abroad, a crucial source of hard currency for the Islamic Republic.

In U.S. federal court documents, authorities allege the Adrian Darya's true owner is Iran's Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary organization answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The U.S. declared the Revolutionary Guard a foreign terrorist organization in April, the first time America named a military force of a nation as such, giving it the legal power to issue a warrant for the vessel's seizure. However, that would require another nation to acknowledge the writ.

The Adrian Darya initially put its intended destination as Kalamata, Greece, and later as Mersin, Turkey. □



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Russian agency reveals details of radiation after explosion

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's state weather and environment monitoring agency on Monday released new details about a brief spike in radioactivity following a mysterious explosion at the navy's testing range that has been surrounded by secrecy and fueled fears of increased radiation levels. The Aug. 8 incident at the Russian navy's range in Nyonoksa on the White Sea killed two servicemen and five nuclear engineers and injured six others. The authorities reported a rise in radiation levels in nearby Severodvinsk, but insisted it didn't pose any danger.

Russia's state weather and environmental monitoring agency Rosgidromet said Monday the brief rise in radiation levels was caused by a cloud of radioactive gases containing isotopes of barium, strontium and lanthanum that drifted



This Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018 file photo, shows an entrance to "The State Central Navy Testing Range" near the village of Nyonoksa, northwestern Russia.

Associated Press

across the area. The agency said its monitoring has found no trace of radiation in air or ground samples since Aug. 8.

It has previously said that the peak radiation reading in Severodvinsk on Aug. 8 briefly reached 1.78 microsieverts per hour

in just one neighborhood — about 16 times the average. Readings in other parts of Severodvinsk varied between 0.45 and 1.33

microsieverts for a couple of hours before returning to normal.

The authorities said those readings didn't pose any danger, and the recorded levels were indeed several times less than what a passenger is exposed to on a long-haul flight.

Still, contradictory statements from the authorities and their reluctance to reveal details of the explosion have drawn comparisons to the Soviet cover-up of the 1986 explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the world's worst nuclear disaster.

The Defense Ministry denied any radiation leak even as the local administration in Severodvinsk reported a hike in radiation levels and told residents to stay indoors — a move that prompted frightened residents to buy iodine, which can help reduce risks from exposure to radiation. □

Indonesia to move capital from sinking Jakarta to Borneo

By NINIEK KARMINI

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's president announced Monday that the country's capital will move from overcrowded, sinking and polluted Jakarta to a site in sparsely populated East Kalimantan province on Borneo island, known for rainforests and orangutans. President Joko Widodo said intense studies over the past three years had resulted in the choice of the location on the eastern side of Borneo island.

The new capital city, which has not yet been named, will be in the middle of the vast archipelago nation and already has relatively complete infrastructure because it is near the cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda,

Widodo said.

He said the burden has been become too heavy on Jakarta on Java island as the center of government, finance, business, trade and services as well as the location of the country's largest airport and seaport.

Widodo said the decision was made not to move the capital elsewhere on Java because the country's wealth and people are highly concentrated there and should be spread out. Currently 54% of the country's nearly 270 million people live on Java, the country's most densely populated area.

"We couldn't continue to allow the burden on Jakarta and Java island to increase

in terms of population density," Widodo said at a news conference in Jakarta's presidential palace. "Economic disparities between Java and elsewhere would also increase."

In an interview with The Associated Press last month, Widodo said he wants to separate the center of government from the country's business and economic center in Jakarta.

Jakarta is an archetypical Asian mega-city with 10 million people, or 30 million including those in its greater metropolitan area. It is prone to earthquakes and flooding and is rapidly sinking due to uncontrolled extraction of ground water. The ground water is highly contaminated as are its riv-



Indonesia President Joko Widodo gestures as he speaks during a press conference at the palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

ers. Congestion is estimated to cost the economy \$6.5 billion a year. Mineral-rich East Kalimantan was once almost completely covered by rainforests, but illegal logging

has removed many of its original growth. It is home to only 3.5 million people and is surrounded by Kutai National Park, known for orangutans and other primates and mammals. □

Venezuela crisis pushes women into 'forced motherhood'

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Dr. Saturnina Clemente pulls up to the small clinic in the impoverished Caucaguita neighborhood armed with one of Venezuela's most sought-after commodities: Hormonal implants to prevent pregnancy.

In a country where contraceptives are in short supply, word in the shantytown on the outskirts of Venezuela's capital spreads quickly. The lucky get on a list run by community leaders. The less fortunate hope there will be extras.

The veteran doctor has 104 implants and there won't be enough for everyone. As a physician at the nation's largest pediatric hospital, Clemente knows first-hand that the consequences for those who don't get one are high.

"It's a sense of impotency, of frustration," she says. "You see that it's not enough, that the demand is much higher."

As Venezuela's crisis deepens, women are bearing the brunt of the nation's upheaval. Despite promises by the socialist government to provide every woman access to family planning, recent surveys and interviews with health professionals indicate access to contraceptives remains incomprehensive.

International organizations like the U.N. Population Fund have begun stepping in by importing tens of thousands of contraceptives this year, but their work is still limited. It's an ordeal with increasingly international ramifications, as a growing number of pregnant women flee to countries like Colombia seeking care they cannot get in Venezuela.

"Women are getting pregnant and don't have options," said Luisa Kislinger, a women's rights activist. "They're forced into motherhood."

Nicol Ramírez is 15 and already a mother. Her name is on Clemente's list, but to get an implant she needs to show a negative pregnancy test. The young



In this photo taken July 25, 2019, women listen to a nurse before getting hormonal implants to prevent pregnancies at a clinic in the impoverished Caucaguita neighborhood on the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

mom and her older sister frantically call their mother. They need 40,000 bolivars, the equivalent of about \$3, in order to do the simple test at a nearby laboratory. "The situation in this country isn't one for having children," Ramírez says, balancing her baby daughter on one hip. "I'm still a girl myself."

During the late Hugo Chávez's presidency, Venezuela's government expanded services aimed at helping poor mothers by providing monthly cash transfers. Chavez lavished praise on women and hailed the so-called "revolutionary mothers" who would help promote his vision.

The 1999 constitution he advanced guarantees "full family planning services" to women among a host of other benefits.

"The socialist revolution should be feminist," he declared.

Despite those initiatives, Chávez's government made only modest advances, at best, in improving contraceptive access. Government data shows that teenage pregnancies continued to steadily increase during his time in power.

"There was a major advance with the constitution, with getting all these

new rights and state obligations," said Rachel Elfenbein, the author of an upcoming book on social programs created under Chávez for women. "But when it came to implementation, if and where it happened, it was patchy." President Nicolás Maduro has struggled to advance his predecessor's agenda amidst a crippling economic contraction worse than the U.S. Great Depression. Few if any women still get cash transfers except for occasional "bonuses" equivalent to a dollar or two. Maternal death rates rose over 65% between 2015 and 2016.

"Under Maduro we've seen an unprecedented setback," Kislinger said.

Health professionals believe Venezuela could cut its high maternal mortality rate by a third doing one thing: Providing contraceptives.

The extent of Venezuela's birth control shortage and the impact on women is difficult to quantify in part because the government has not released information on key indicators like teenage pregnancy since 2012. According to those now dated figures, just over 23% of all births in Venezuela were to women under the age of 20.

Some independent health

organizations and women's rights groups contend the rate could now be as high as 28%. A study of four hospitals last year found that over a quarter of all births recorded were to teenage mothers.

The most recent U.N. world population report estimates Venezuela's teen pregnancy rate is about 85.3 per 1,000 adolescents ages 15-19. That figure would mark a slight decline, though is still over double the global rate. By comparison, Colombia's rate is 66.7 per 1,000 teens ages 15-19.

"We don't know what the reality is in 2019," said Nellymary Díaz, a program director the Civil Association for Family Planning, an organization that runs several clinics and has operated since 1986. "That worries us."

After years of denying the existence of a humanitarian crisis, Maduro has recently begun allowing international aid. While a large part of the emergency assistance has gone toward food and medicine, a small portion is going toward reproductive health. The U.N. Population Fund has imported 45,000 hormonal implants so far with the government's authorization. An estimated 17,000 have been distributed thus far at hospitals and clinics like the one in Caucaguita

where women line up before dawn.

"I don't want to have more kids," said Yailyn Salas, 20, the mother of a 9-month-old son in the line. "I want to close the shop."

Among the millions of Venezuelans who have chosen to flee are thousands of pregnant women. In Colombia, over 26,000 Venezuelan women have given birth since August 2015. That surge is straining Colombia's already fragile health care system and testing the nation's mostly welcoming approach toward Venezuelan migrants. In recent months, the mayor of one large Colombian city likened Venezuelans to "a poor baby factory" while a popular newspaper columnist implored migrants to "stop giving birth."

"If you don't stop reproducing like you are, it's going to be even harder to see you as an opportunity for growth instead of a problem," journalist Claudia Palacios wrote. Ramírez found out she was pregnant at 14 with her boyfriend of one year. Condoms and birth control pills were either impossible to find or too expensive. When she told her boyfriend the news, Ramírez said he responded coldly. He was 23 and already a father. He told her that he couldn't handle another responsibility.

She hasn't heard from him since.

Adolescent moms under 15 are twice as likely to die during pregnancy. Though Ramírez had access to prenatal care, doctors nonetheless had to perform an emergency C-section after the baby's heartbeat became irregular.

"She was born practically dead," Ramírez said, her soft voice turning somber. Ramírez's ordeal to find birth control isn't unusual. An independent survey of 151 pharmacies consulted over a five-month period last year found some contraceptives like the patch could not be found at all in Venezuela, while others including birth control pills are experiencing near-total shortages. □

LOCAL



25 Florin Aruba's banknote nominated for "Banknote of the Year 2019"



ORANJESTAD — After more than 7 years of intense preparation, recently the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) held the official launch of the new 2019 series florin banknotes. The International Bank Note Society revealed the nomination of the 25 Florin banknote for the "Banknote of the Year 2019 Award". CBA congratulates the people of Aruba with this achievement and is looking forward to the announcement of the winning banknote in April 2020.

The 3 nominees for this award are 25 Florin Aruba, 5 Pound Northern Ireland and 1000 Franc Switzerland. January 31st of 2020 will be the last day for the nomination. During the journey of the making of, the CBA worked in

James & Barbara Nemecek honored as Goodwill Ambassadors



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Darline de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitor at their home away from home. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

The honorees were: James & Barbara Nemecek resident of Sellersville Pennsylvania. The couple loves coming to the island for the friendly people, great weather and very relaxing atmosphere.

The event which commemorates their 20th consecutive visit to the island was held at the Renaissance Ocean Suites. De Cuba together with representatives of the Resort, Mr. David Gomez, thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □

close cooperation with several local artists, various local and international experts from central banks and private sector consultants, as well as the internationally renowned banknote producer Crane Currency. The main theme of these banknotes is "Life in Aruba", containing elements of the Aruban flora, fauna, cultural heritage, monuments, and landmarks. Apart from the very colorful designs, these banknotes also contain the most advanced security features available on the market.

With the introduction of the 2019 banknote series, the CBA aims to maintain confidence in the florin and contribute in promoting the uniqueness and beauty of Aruba's flora, fauna, cultural heritage, monuments, and landmarks.

For future generations to be able to appreciate this as well, it is of utmost importance to continue to promote public awareness for the adequate preservation and conservation hereof. □

Nominal amount Afl.	Main color	Design
10	Blue	Chelonia Mydas/ Green Turtle/ Turtuga Blanco Lactophrys Bicaudalis/ Spotted Trunk fish/ Fototo Gorgonia Ventalina/ Common Sea Fan/ Waira di Lama
25	Orange	Icterus Icterus/ Troupial/ Trupial Athene Cunicularia Arubensis/ Burrowing Owl/ Shoco Passiflora Foetida/ Passion Flower/ Shoshoro
50	Red	Sesuvium Portulacastrum/ Shoreline Purslane/ Banana di Rif
100	Green	Iguana Iguana/ Iguana/ Yuwana Anolis Lineatus/ Striped Anole/ Waltaka Aloe Barbadensis/ Aloe/ Aloe
200	Brown	Caracara Cheriway/ Crested Caracara / Warawara Chrysolampis Mosquitus/ Ruby-topaz Hummingbird/ Dornasol Opuntia Caracassana/ Leaf Cactus/ Tuna

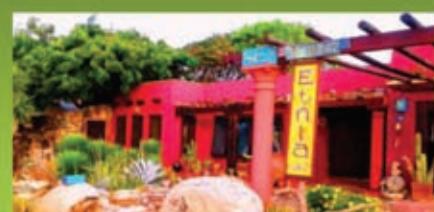
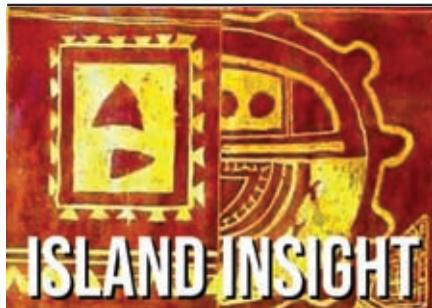
CENTRALE BANK VAN ARUBA

With pride the Centrale Bank of Aruba congratulates the island of Aruba with the nomination of the 25 Florin banknote in the 2019 category of "Banknote of the Year 2019 Award".

Recently the International Bank Note Society announced the 3 nominees for this award which are:

- 25 Florin Aruba
- 5 Pound Northern Ireland
- 1000 Franc Switzerland

January 31st of 2020 will be the last day for the nomination and the winner of the award will be announced in April 2020



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Insular Alert II Wara-Wara the Crested Caracara

Episode XXXII

Loss of habitat:

Our beautiful Crested Caracaras are less frequently encountered today in Aruba. However they are still common in South America. We recommend avoiding areas where they breed since this can affect researchers' ability to estimate population trends. Based upon Etnia Nativa's research, findings revealed that population has dropped by 50% since 1985, which indicates protection must be considered or even to be listed as a species that is very much threatened. Wara-wara, as we called this magnificent bird in Papiamento, are resourceful animals that eat just about anything.

In the following sequence of four pictures, we can observe a breba cactus disappearing which had a long standing nest in it, while one bird is jumping around in stress around what once used to be its nest, then stands on the pile of the bulldozed cactus, only to fly away and contemplate the ongoing destruction with the rest of its family that lost their home to development.

From the moment we decided to develop our home into a top tourist destination, island officials had solely focused on the revenue this could generate for the island, and the money they can earn without much consideration for our environment. This myopia has had devastating consequences that is blowing up in our face as we speak. We had to import thousands of workers that also only had the money they could send back home to their families in their country of origin in mind. Many, who have had no formal education, come to compete with locals and could be exploited in a way locals reject for themselves. This unfortunate situation brought the need for more housing, more infrastructure and supporting development, which had its toll on our lives and on our fragile ecosystem. This form of exploitation of our island, by turning a blind eye to the essence of what we have had to share with our visitors, sincere friendliness, pristine ecosystem and a yearlong sunny climate is in danger of disappearing forever. At this pace we are destroying our island's ecosystem at an unprecedented rate in the name of progress and threatening the survival of all species that only live on Aruba. The evidence is irrefutable. The destruction of our biodiversity and ecosystem services has reached levels that threaten our well-being our product, as much as human-induced climate change on the "disputed or controversial global warming effect."

With these words chair Robert Watson

launched a meeting in Paris to agree the final text of a major U.N. report on the state of nature around the world – the biggest and most thorough assessment to date, put together by 150 scientists from 50 countries.

The report was mostly grim reading. We humans have already significantly altered three-quarters of all land and two-thirds of the oceans. More than a third of land and three-quarters of freshwater resources are devoted to crops or livestock.

Around 700 vertebrates have gone extinct in the past few centuries. Forty per cent of amphibians and a third of coral species, sharks and marine mammals look to follow. The main reason is simple: Our expanding neighborhoods and the number of hotels are leaving less space for wildlife. The other major causes are the direct exploitation of wildlife by bulldozing everything to the ground, climate change, pollution and the spread of invasive species and burning down the Amazon is set to become ever more destructive.

In this episode I would like to dedicate a few words to a very special scavenger, a bird whose main job is to keep the island clean of dead carcasses which can spread disease. Our wara-wara or crested caracara is a bird of prey in the family Falconidae. It was formerly considered conspecific with the southern caracara and the extinct Guadalupe caracara as the "crested caracara".

The name "caracara" is said to be of Caquetio Indian origin, Guara-wara derived from the unusual rattling vocalization that the bird utters when agitated.

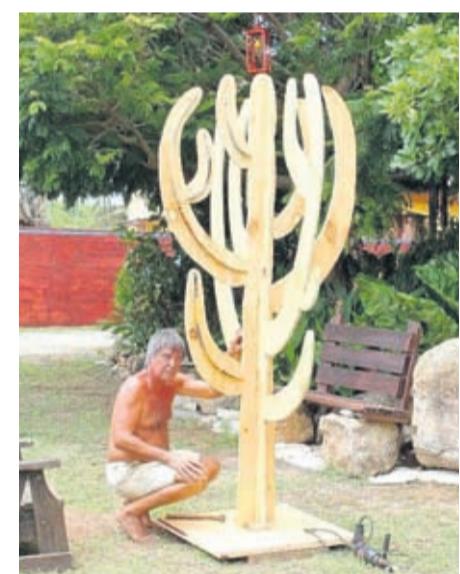
The crested caracara is a bird of open habitats, typically grassland, prairie, pastures, or desert with scattered taller trees, shrubs, or mature candelabra cactus in which it nests.



Pic.1 Wara-Wara



Pic.2 Breba cactus standing in full glory



Pic. 7. Awareness art project regarding loss of habitat and ecocide on the island.



Continued in Page 15

2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY

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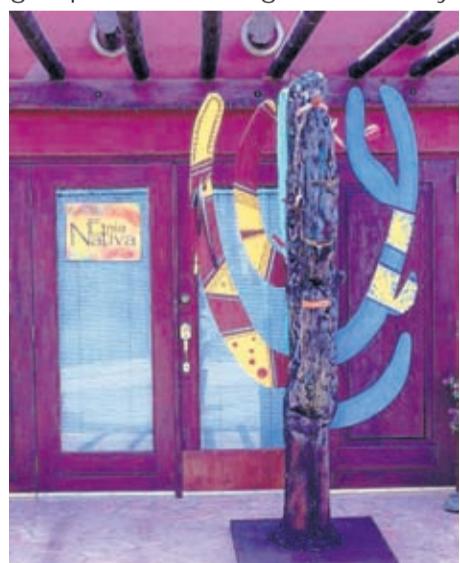
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Insular Alert II Wara-Wara the Crested Caracara

Episode XXXII

Continued from Page 14

Adult pairs are generally monogamous, highly territorial and exhibit strong site fidelity. The young remain with their parents for several months after fledging, and at some sites two broods are raised per year. Non-breeding caracaras are consistently gregarious and nomadic, often congregating in groups and roosting communally.



Pic.8. Art project to bring awareness to the general public regarding the importance of our breba

They wade in shallow waters to grab fish, dig up turtle eggs with their feet, and turn over debris with feet to uncover insects or dead animals, specially goats and road kill. Their nesting period ranges between 42 to 56 days with clutches of 1 to 4 eggs.

Although populations on the island have received some recent attention by our curator at Etnia Nativa, the crested caracara is relatively un-studied throughout its range. Rapid urban development in and around the district of Noord has resulted in loss of many nesting habitats, and in 2004 this population was classified as threatened by Etnia Nativa studies, limiting expansion of the tourist industry, land-clearing, and habitat conversion could be beneficial to the species. In some regions, direct human persecution continues, primarily by bulldozing mature candelabra cactus like the cadushi, *Stenocereus griseus* and the breba, *Cereus repandus*, shooting and even poisoning, mostly because of negative attitudes of non-islanders towards scavengers. □



Pic.9..Etnia Nativa's Curator giving an explanation to the Queen of Holland of the communal project during one of her official visits to the island.

Top Italian Wines & Culinary Heights from NY



PALM BEACH — The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba hosts an evening that will elevate your senses. Scents of Taste presents a curated four course menu of Casa Nonna New York paired with the exquisite wines of the Tommasi family from Verona, Italy. Tomorrow from 6 PM you can be part of this gastronomic journey, make sure you have a reservation!

Chef de Cuisine, Rollyn Angela of Casa Nonna New York - Aruba will pamper you with pure Italian delight during the four courses. The Tommasi Wine is a family viticulture company founded in 1902 in Valpolicella, Verona Italy. Each estate in the Tommasi Family Estates has got its own history and identity,

promising quality and excellence every single time. The gastronomical event taking place at Casa Nonna makes the recipe for superb quality complete.

Casa Nonna means literally 'Grandmother's House' in Italian. There are only two of them: one

in the heart of NYC's Theater District, and the other one in Aruba. In case you would like to taste what real Italian pure food is about, you must come over here. The style of the restaurant takes you to this upscale though laid back Venice-in-the-fifties ambiance. The round corner sofas around the dining tables, the natural colors combined with orange-red, the candles and the rustic wall paper make this a sophisticated establishment with a 'chill' edge.

'Freshness, Quality, Simplicity and the Reminders of Home'

To maintain the freshness of the ingredients, required by Casa Nonna, they actually make their own



pasta. The flour is brought in from outside and the team is trained to prepare the pasta fresh just like the flagship restaurant with the highest quality. The dough is prepared daily to maintain freshness, same like the bread. Freshness, quality, simplicity and the reminders of home. That is Casa Nonna, in the words of the chef. □

Casa Nonna Aruba
The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
L.G. Smith Blvd., 107 Palm Beach
Phone: +297 527 2222
<https://casanonna.com/aruba/>

Mosaic Workshops at Cosecha

ORANJESTAD — Cosecha is a retail gallery that displays Aruban crafts, design and heritage inspired products, all handmade by local craftpeople. The end of this month Cosecha will be presenting different creative workshops. With these workshops the gallery would like to bring more creative activities to the public. You are most welcome to join!

Iguana Mosaic Workshop

Don't you get excited when you see iguanas nearby? Join this workshop Friday August 30th during a monthly creative happy hour, where you will make a mosaic piece to honor these wonderful animals. The artisan Merveline will make sure you get all the knowledge and tools you need. From 5:00pm-8:00PM.

Glass Mosaic Plant Pot

Saturday August 31st is your chance to create a unique plant pot. Don't we all need an inspirational plant pot? This is the chance for you to decorate a plant pot with mosaic glass tiles. The artisan Judy



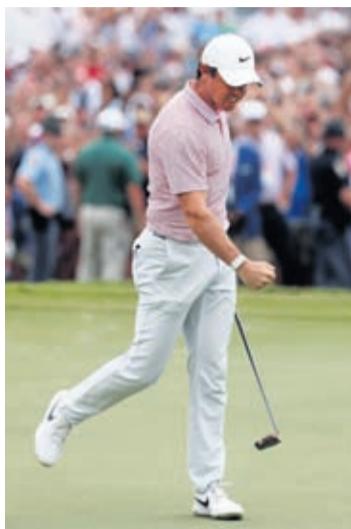
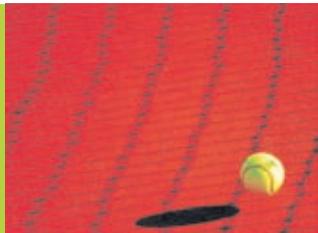
will teach you how to use glass tiles but also nuggets for you to create your own design. See you in the Creative Center for another cool workshop. From 10:00am-12:00PM

Mandala Mug

Due to great demand, Cosecha and the artisan Natalia offer one more time the Mandala Mugs Workshop, a workshop developed by both parties. You can make the popular Mandala Mug or their latest design the Landscape Mug. Always wanted to have a Kwihi Tree Mug? Or a Red Anchor Mug? Or a Lighthouse Mug? Join in for another great workshop, while Cosecha keeps on developing together with you. Mandala or Landscape Mug workshop. Participants will be able to decorate a mug with a mandala design or choose a landscape design like a kwihi tree, the red anchor or the lighthouse. From 2:00PM-5:00PM, also on Saturday August 31st.

For more information check out the Facebook page Aruba Cosecha. □

SPORTS



Rory McIlroy reacts after sinking a putt on the 18th green to win the Tour Championship golf tournament and the FedEx Cup, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta.

No majors, but a major finish by Rory McIlroy

ATLANTA (AP) — Rory McIlroy never felt richer than when he knocked in a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the FedEx Cup.

Only it had nothing to do with the money.

It was never about \$15 million.

Even before he teed off in the Tour Championship — facing a five-shot deficit before he hit a shot at East Lake because of the radical new scoring format — McIlroy made it clear the FedEx Cup should be more about accomplishment than cash. And then it became personal.

A year ago, he was lost in the chaos surrounding Tiger Woods as they walked up to the 18th green at East Lake as thousands of spectators came under the ropes to celebrate the return of Tiger Woods in his Sunday red winning a tournament for the first time in more than five years.

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Serena cruises past Sharapova in U.S. Open

Serena Williams returns to Maria Sharapova during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press
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Big Ben makes preseason debut, Steelers beat Titans 18-6

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Ben Roethlisberger needed three short series to show he's ready for the regular season, even though he wasn't happy the Steelers didn't score earlier.

The Tennessee Titans made it very clear protecting Marcus Mariota on a wet and ugly night was their top priority.

Roethlisberger capped his night with a 17-yard touchdown pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster, and the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Titans 18-6 Sunday night to remain perfect this preseason.

"I wasn't as crisp as I would've liked to have been, but I think we got enough accomplished," Roethlisberger said.

The Steelers (3-0) came up with four of seven sacks by halftime and had a turnover as they pummeled all three quarterbacks for the Titans (1-2). Six different Steelers had at least a sack apiece.

Roethlisberger made his preseason debut and was a bit rusty with two short series. After Stephon Tuitt sacked Mariota in the end zone for a safety, Roethlisberger then drove the



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger passes against the Tennessee Titans in the first half of a preseason NFL football game Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Steelers 48 yards after the free kick and finished with the TD pass to Smith-Schuster.

He nearly gave the Steelers a 10-0 lead but Jaylen Samuels fell down after catching the pass on a 2-point conversion attempt. Roethlisberger spent the rest of the night watching and was 8 of 13 for 63 yards passing. Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin was content with what he got out of Roethlisberger and the rest of

his Steelers in their first road trip this preseason.

"Although it wasn't a complete body of work, we were able to get them some situational ball and watch them execute and do some things there, so a good night in that regard," Tomlin said.

A night after Andrew Luck retired, the Titans played safe with their starting quarterback and pulled Mariota after he was sacked for the safety on his second

series. Mariota was 0 of 3, including an uncharacteristic drop by veteran Adam Humphries. That proved a smart move with backup Ryan Tannehill sacked on his third play.

"We're going to make sure we can protect our quarterback, and that's important," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. "And it's imperative that we do that as a staff and we do that as an offensive group."

Pittsburgh is still trying to

figure out Roethlisberger's backup, and Mason Rudolph helped himself with a 41-yard TD pass to James Washington on his first throw of the game. That put the Steelers up 15-0 after the first quarter with a 159-25 edge in total offense. Rudolph finished the first half and was 6 of 9 for 75 yards. Joshua Dobbs took over in the third quarter and didn't get much help. One receiver was out of bounds after pushing off for offensive pass interference, and the Steelers needed review to show Trey Griffey did have control and both feet down on a catch after Dobbs scrambled to find him for a 23-yard catch. That set up a 31-yard field goal by rookie Matthew Wright.

The Titans intercepted both Rudolph and Dobbs, who was 4 of 9 for 79 yards.

TWO-SACK QUARTER

Tuitt not only got a sack and the ball back for the Steelers, the veteran going into his sixth season had two in the first quarter taking both of the Titans' top two quarterbacks down. Tuitt smothered Mariota in the end zone for the safety, then got to Tannehill on the third play of his first series. □



New England Patriots strong safety Patrick Chung speaks with a reporter in the team's locker room following an NFL football practice Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

By MARK FARINELLA

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) —

Having played for the New England Patriots for nine of his 10 NFL seasons, Patrick Chung is well-versed in how his team addresses potential controversies. It doesn't.

So it came as no surprise

when Chung offered no information about a charge of cocaine possession brought against him in New Hampshire while speaking briefly with reporters Monday inside the Patriots' Gillette Stadium locker room. "Honestly, I've been just here playing football. We just talk about football. So

Patriots' Chung focuses upon football, not cocaine charge

that's all I'm going to talk about, talk about the Giants," the 32-year-old safety said, referring to Thursday night's preseason finale at home against the New York Giants.

Earlier Monday, Chung waived a court appearance in Laconia, New Hampshire, and a lawyer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

Belknap County Attorney Andrew Livernois said police in Meredith, New Hampshire, were called to Chung's home on June 25 "on a call for service" and obtained evidence leading to the felony drug charge. He was indicted on Aug. 8.

Chung's next court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 8.

During the open locker room period after Monday's practice, Chung said he would speak only about football as reporters clustered around him. Asked if it was difficult to focus on the game following his indictment, Chung said: "Just coming to work and I play. I go to the meetings and get into the playbook and I just get back, get over my injuries and get back."

Chung was a second-round draft pick by the Patriots in 2009 out of Oregon, and he returned to New England in 2014 after playing one season with

the Philadelphia Eagles. He has been a major contributor on defense to three of the Patriots' six Super Bowl championships.

Chung suffered a broken arm late in the Patriots' 13-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in the last Super Bowl and has yet to play in a preseason game, only recently shedding the red practice jersey signifying his non-contact status.

"It feels good," he said of returning to full-contact status. "It's a little hard to practice with a red jersey on and with pads. It feels good to be out there and be able to get a little physical and use my body a little bit." □

Serena Williams routs Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1 at U.S. Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Playing her first match at the U.S. Open since last year's loss in a chaotic, controversial final, Serena Williams played nearly perfect tennis and beat Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1 in a contest devoid of drama Monday night.

Williams stretched her winning streak to 19 matches against Sharapova and now leads their head-to-head series 20-2.

"Every time I come up against her," Williams said, "I just bring out some of my best tennis."

Sure did this time; the whole thing lasted all of 59 minutes. Williams won twice as many points, 56-28. She saved all five break points she faced and lashed serves at up to 115 mph. She broke five times.

Few players would have stood a chance against Williams the way she performed — and certainly not a diminished Sharapova, who is ranked just 87th after missing much of this season with a bad right shoulder.

"She would win the title, playing like this," 18-time major champion Chris Evert said about Williams on ESPN's telecast.

Williams arrived at Flushing Meadows, where she's won six titles, accompanied by questions about her back, because spasms that flared up earlier this month forced

her to stop playing during the final of one hard-court tuneup tournament and pull out of another one entirely.

Didn't seem to be an issue against Sharapova.

Not one bit.

"The body's good. I feel good," Williams said. "My back's a lot better. So I'm excited. This is going to be fun."

A year ago, she was beaten by Naomi Osaka in straight sets in a U.S. Open title match that devolved after a back-and-forth between Williams and chair umpire Carlos Ramos. He warned her for receiving coaching signals, which isn't allowed in Grand Slam play; when she later broke a racket, he docked her a point; when she argued with him and called him a "thief" and a "liar," he docked her a game. The U.S. Tennis Association decided that Ramos would not officiate any match involving Serena Williams or her older sister, Venus, at this year's tournament.

Williams was calm and cool as can be against Sharapova, only rarely showing the slightest hint of emotion with a cry of "Come on!" or by raising a clenched left fist after the shot of the night, a backhand passing winner that saved a break point early in the second set.

"That was definitely a big



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, dances for fans after beating Roberto Carballes Baena, of Spain, during the first round of the US Open tennis tournament Monday, Aug. 26, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

point for me," Williams said. "She's the kind of player that gets momentum and she starts going. I was really excited that I hit that winner."

It shaped up, at least, as far and away the most intriguing matchup on Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Few athletes in any sport have been as popular in recent decades.

Williams owns 23 major singles titles, Sharapova five.

Both have a career Grand Slam.

Both have been ranked No. 1.

So, yes, there were plenty

of other matches around the grounds Monday, with No. 1 Novak Djokovic opening defense of his title with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Roberto Carballes Baena, and 21-year-old American Reilly Opelka providing the biggest upset of the afternoon in his U.S. Open debut

by eliminating No. 11 Fabio Fognini of Italy 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3.

And, sure, 2016 champion Angelique Kerber continued her rough Grand Slam year with a first-round exit against Kristina Mladenovic by a 7-5, 0-6, 6-4 score, while 2016 runner-up Karolina Pliskova and reigning

French Open title winner Ash Barty both struggled through rough starts before emerging to win.

The Williams family only dropped a total of three games in two matches Monday, because Venus beat Zheng Saisai 6-1, 6-0 earlier.

Nothing brought out the spectators the way Serena Williams vs. Maria Sharapova did, with full-throated roars greeting them when they walked from the locker room into a dimly lit stadium.

When the lights came on, Williams proved far more ready for prime time. □

Jobe shoots 63, charges past Couples to win Boeing Classic

SNOQUALMIE, Wash. (AP) — Brandt Jobe used his best round of the year to spoil what was supposed to be a day-long celebration for hometown favorite Fred Couples.

Jobe rallied from seven strokes down, shooting a final-round 9-under 63 Sunday to win the Boeing Classic for his second PGA Tour Champions title.

Jobe finished at 18 under, three shots ahead of Tom Pernice Jr., who shot a final-round 65. Couples, who held a five-stroke lead after the second round, shot 76 and finished in a tie for third at 12 under.

It was Jobe's first victory since winning the 2017 Principal Charity Classic. The 63 was tied for his second-lowest round on the tour.

"I kind of thought we were going to be playing for second. If Freddy goes out and shoots 3, 4, 5 under like he had done the first two days that's really what we were doing," Jobe said. "I birdied the first five holes and thought, 'Well, at least that's making a little noise.'"

Jobe made more than a little noise. He sped past Couples, leaving the Seattle native still looking for his first victory playing in his hometown event. It was

the fourth time Couples has finished third in the event.

"Obviously if I would have won today it would have been unreal, but when you play bad you could be in Japan and it would not be much fun," Couples said.

Couples started the day with a huge lead and a huge gallery following his every shot. He made a birdie on the first, but it was his only one of the round as he struggled throughout. He had two bogeys on the front nine and three on the back and shot a 4 over. He tied for third with Jerry Kelly (69).

Couples ran into trouble

starting at the ninth when he dunked his tee shot in the water fronting the green, a day after making a hole-in-one on the par 3.

Couples saved his bogey, but watched birdie putts slide by on Nos. 11 and 12. He made his third bogey of the round on the par-3 13th as Jobe was making a 10-footer for birdie on the 14th to take a two-shot lead. Couples made zero bogeys in his first 41 holes and five in his final 13 holes.

"I didn't drive it in very much trouble but I had a lot of in-between shots and I kept going with softer ones and I didn't hit very many good

ones," Couples said. "Then I bogeyed every par 3. At the end, it was just like let me just finish and get the hell out of here."

The 54-year-old Jobe charged into contention with seven birdies, a par and bogey on the front nine for a 30. On the back nine, he moved into the lead with the birdie at the 14th, rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt at the 17th and tapped in for another birdie at No. 18.

"Just a fun day when you can go out there and do what you're trying to do and it happens it's really gratifying," Jobe said. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster.

Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10.30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, holds up the FedEx Cup trophy after winning the Tour Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 17

"I never enjoyed that walk last year like everyone else did," he said.

He appreciated Woods winning. McIlroy did not appreciate that he didn't make Woods work terribly hard for it.

Recent motivation came from a World Golf Championship last month in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had a one-shot lead over Brooks Koepka, the No. 1 player in the world who

had won as many majors in three years as McIlroy had won in the last nine years. Koepka shot 65. McIlroy laid an egg.

Sunday at East Lake was his chance for redemption on a number of levels, and he added another one by his questioning of the new format in which not everyone started on the same score. The new system, designed to eliminate confusion by having only one winner on Sunday in the FedEx Cup fi-

nales, meant players started more under par depending on their position in the FedEx Cup.

McIlroy's only goal going into the week was to post the lowest score in the 30-man field regardless of whether he won. He closed with a 4-under 66, a command performance on a long day of 31 holes because the third round had to resume Sunday morning.

That gave him a 13-under 267 for the week, the best of anyone.

Check.

Because of his birdie on the 18th hole of the third round, he was in the final group with Koepka, who beat him soundly in Memphis. That was a strong memory, and being at East Lake, he still thought about the 74 he shot in the final round a year ago while paired with Woods.

"I thought about the final group with Tiger last year, the final group with Brooks in Memphis a few weeks ago, and I really wanted to go out there and play

well and really take it to him," McIlroy said. "And I did that for the most part. I shot 66 on a really tough golf course and got the job done."

Koepka lost the lead with a tee shot lost in the trees and a double bogey on No. 7, and then consecutive bogeys on the back nine as McIlroy made birdies. Koepka closed with a 72, six shots worse.

Check.

The FedEx Cup? That was a big deal for other reasons. McIlroy joined Woods as the only players to win the FedEx Cup twice since it began in 2007. He struggled to hoist the silver trophy during the presentation on the 18th green, perhaps from a long day of 31 holes. Paul Azinger, the lead analyst for NBC Sports, jokingly suggested that "as hard a time as he had lifting it up, I thought the money was in there."

For every box he wanted to tick on Sunday, he was asked which made him the most proud.

McIlroy never mentioned

the money.

"Winning the tournament if everyone had started even," McIlroy said. "My goal at the start of the week was to just shoot the lowest score. If that happened to work out the right way, then so be it. But I never strayed from that thought process. I was playing a little tournament inside my head. ... And then going out in the final group and shooting 66 alongside the No. 1 player in the world, when he got the better of me a few weeks ago."

The majors are over, and there's nothing McIlroy can do about it now.

Not even a \$15 million payout — \$14 million in cash, \$1 million deferred — or a trophy talked about all year by the PGA Tour can change that kind of legacy. Majors matter the most. For McIlroy, no major matters more than the Masters, the only one keeping him from a career Grand Slam. This year's biggest disappointment was a British Open in his home country of Northern Ireland. □



Noah Lyles of USA, center, on his way to win the men's 200 m at the IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting at Charlety Stadium in Paris, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019.

Diamond League cuts 1 meet to 13-city circuit, Zurich final

ZURICH (AP) — Track and field's elite Diamond League series is cutting one meeting to create a new 13-city schedule and will move to a single-venue finals night. The IAAF governing body says Zurich will host an expanded, 24-event finals meeting in 2020 and '21. Other meetings can apply to host in the following three years. This season's series is the last with 12-event finals held in each of Zurich, on Friday, and in Brussels, on Sept. 6. The IAAF says a two-year

renovation of the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels influenced the decision. When Brussels returns, one of 13 other venues in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America faces being cut. The Diamond League launched in 2010 aiming to create rivalries in a season-long points ranking for 24 selected events. In 2020, Diamond League meetings will have a shorter, faster-paced 90-minute broadcasting package. The Zurich finals meeting will be 2 1/2 hours long. □

Bennett wins 3rd stage, Roche keeps Spanish Vuelta lead

ALICANTE, Spain (AP) — Sam Bennett won the third stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Monday, with fellow Irishman Nicolas Roche keeping his overall lead ahead of Nairo Quintana. Bennett dominated the final sprint in the 188-kilometer (117-mile) mostly flat stage from Ibi to Alicante, beating Edward Theuns and Luka Mezgec to the finish line.

"I knew it would be a very fast sprint so I really wanted to kick first," Bennett said. "I'm delighted to get a Grand Tour victory. I'm delighted we are giving the Irish fans something to

cheer for."

It is the first time that Ireland has had both the stage winner and overall leader at the Vuelta on the same day.

There were no major changes to the overall standings as Roche and Quintana finished in the main peloton. Roche will keep a two-second lead going into Tuesday's 175-kilometer (109-mile) ride from Cullera to El Puig on Spain's eastern coast.

"Today has been more stressful than we thought. The team did a great job on keeping ourselves at the front," Roche said. □



Canada's Khem Birch, right, attempts to defend a layup by United States' Harrison Barnes during their exhibition basketball game in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Aug. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

Order restored: U.S. beats Canada in pre-World Cup basketball

SYDNEY (AP) — Order restored. After losing for the first time in nearly 13 years two days earlier, the United States rebounded to out-class Canada 84-68 in a pre-World Cup exhibition basketball game Monday. At the same arena where the Americans won Olympic gold at the Sydney 2000 Games the U.S. never trailed, leading 20-9 after the first quarter and 46-31 at halftime.

On Saturday, Australia stunned the U.S. 98-94 before a crowd of more than 52,000 in Melbourne, a result that ended the Americans' 78-game winning streak.

The U.S. is missing top NBA players such as LeBron James, James Harden, Paul George and Stephen Curry. It was a dour scoring game after the exciting Saturday result in Melbourne, with both teams committing numerous turnovers Monday.

Jaylen Brown had 19 points to lead the Americans, who out-rebounded Canada 55-37. Donovan Mitchell added 12 points and four assists; Kemba Walker scored 12 points and Miles Turner finished with 10 points and 15 rebounds.

"We have to speed up that learning curve," Brown said of the Americans with less than a week to go be-

fore the World Cup starts. "We have a lot of room for growth. It's going to be good when it comes together, the sky is the limit for this group."

Kyle Wiltjer had 21 points for Canada, while Orlando Magic forward Khem Birch — Canada's lone NBA player in the game — had 13 points and six rebounds. "We've got a lot of work to do, but we've enjoyed our time here," Wiltjer said. "Let's not forget these are practice games."

Overall, the Canadians shot just 35% from the field and 6-for-23 (26 from three-point range).

Andrew Nembhard, who injured his knee last week, and Kaza Kajami-Keane (ankle) both returned for Canada, while Brady Heslip, a late arrival for the Canadians, played his first game in Australia.

The last time the Americans

— counting major international tournaments and exhibitions with NBA players on the floor — lost a game was the semifinals of the 2006 world championships. The American program has won gold in every competition since, including three straight in the Olympics and two consecutive World Cup titles. Canada has also been hit hard by missing NBA players, with Miami Heat's Kelly

Olynyk the latest big-name player to pull out after sustaining a knee injury.

TIP-INS

Canada: It was the third head-to-head meeting between Canada coach Nick Nurse and U.S. coach Gregg Popovich. They went 1-1 against each other in NBA play last season, Nurse's Toronto Raptors losing in San Antonio on Jan. 3 but beating Popovich's Spurs in Canada on Feb. 22. Canada finished 4-3 in its pre-World Cup exhibitions, starting with a split of a two-game series with Nigeria before five games in Australia.

USA: The Americans finished their four-game World Cup warm-up tour 3-1 after beating Spain and splitting two games with Australia. The U.S. is planning to stay in Sydney until mid-week, then arrive in Shanghai early Thursday.

NURSE TOUR

Nurse is getting the full tour of the other side of the world this year. The Canadians have been in Australia for a week or so, and now head to China for the World Cup. Then, Nurse will be in Japan when the world champion Raptors (albeit now without NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard) play preseason games against Houston on Oct. 8 and Oct. 10. □

Rendon helps Nats sweep Cubs 7-5 in 11 for 5th straight win

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Anthony Rendon homered and had four hits, including an RBI single in the 11th inning, and the Washington Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs 7-5 on Sunday for their fifth straight victory.

Juan Soto added three hits and Stephen Strasburg struck out 10 in six innings, helping Washington finish off its first sweep of Chicago since September 2012. The Nationals outscored the Cubs 23-10 in a three-game series between the top two teams in the NL wild-card standings.

Kyle Schwarber, Addison Russell and Victor Caratini homered for Chicago, which had won five in a row before Washington rolled into town. The Cubs fell 2 1/2 games behind first-place St. Louis in the NL Central. The Nationals grabbed the lead for good when Howie Kendrick scored on Tyler Chatwood's wild pitch with Rendon at the plate in the 11th. Rendon then drove in Trea Turner with a single off Chatwood (5-2).

Daniel Hudson (7-3) pitched two innings for the win.

The Cubs played without Anthony Rizzo, sidelined by tightness in his back.

CARDINALS 11, ROCKIES 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Matt Carpenter broke out of his slump with a homer and three hits, Dexter Fowler drove in three runs and St. Louis cruised past Colorado after a long rain delay. The streaking Cardinals, who have won seven of eight and 13 of 16, swept the four-game series by a combined score of 31-12. They are a season-high 13 games over .500.

Nolan Arenado and Garrett Hampson homered for the Rockies, who have dropped six of seven. Arenado reached 100 RBIs for the fifth successive season. Tommy Edman had three hits and Lane Thomas added a pinch-hit homer for St. Louis. Ryan Helsley (1-0) picked up his first career win with 2 1/3 innings of relief.

Antonio Senzatela (8-8) was tagged for six runs and five hits over 1 2/3 innings in



Washington Nationals' Anthony Rendon, right, crosses home plate past Chicago Cubs' catcher Jonathan Lucroy, left, after hitting a solo home run off of Chicago Cubs' Cole Hamels during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

his return from the minors.

BRAVES 2, METS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Donaldson hit two more home runs against the Mets, Dallas Keuchel pitched his best game of the season and Atlanta won its eighth in a row by holding off New York.

Braves relievers set an Atlanta record by extending their string to 25 scoreless innings before the Mets scored in the ninth. Mark Melancon got pinch-hitter Joe Panik to ground out with two on to end it.

The NL East leaders completed a three-game sweep and matched their longest winning streak of the season. The Mets dropped to 5-11 against Atlanta, long their nemesis. A day after hitting his 30th home run, Donaldson connected twice to give him nine against the Mets this

season. He tied Hank Aaron's club mark for most homers in a year versus the Mets — Hammerin' Hank did it against the expansion club in 1962.

Keuchel (5-5) allowed four hits in seven innings, striking out seven.

Sean Newcomb pitched a perfect eighth and Melancon closed for his sixth save, including a 5-for-5 performance since being traded from San Francisco to the Braves in late July.

Steven Matz (8-8) took the hard-luck loss.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Robbie Ray returned from the injured list and pitched five scoreless innings, Eduardo Escobar and Christian Walker each homered, and Arizona beat Milwaukee to avoid a series sweep.

Ray (11-7) had been out

since Aug. 14 due to lower back spasms. He allowed three hits, walked four and struck out six in five innings. The left-hander has thrown 18 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings against the Brewers.

Escobar hit his 29th homer and Walker got his 23rd. Archie Bradley retired Christian Yelich with two on in the ninth to finish his seventh save.

Zach Davies (8-7) allowed four runs in four innings and dropped his fifth straight start.

PADRES 3, RED SOX 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Manny Machado hit a two-run homer — his first in more than three weeks — and left-hander Joey Lucchesi pitched five decent innings for San Diego in a victory over Boston to avoid a three-game sweep.

Machado, the \$300 million

slugger, drove a pitch from left-hander Brian Johnson (1-3) for his 27th homer to give the Padres a 3-0 lead. It was the third straight hit off Johnson to open the game. It was the Padres' 190th homer of the season, setting the franchise's season record.

Lucchesi (9-7) allowed one run and three hits in five innings, struck out three and walked two.

His only big mistake was allowing J.D. Martinez's 411-foot home run into the top balcony of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner for Boston's first hit of the game with two outs in the fourth. It was his 31st.

MARLINS 3, PHILLIES 2

MIAMI (AP) — Starlin Castro's two-run double in the sixth inning capped a comeback by Miami, who rallied against Aaron Nola (12-4) to beat Philadelphia. Four Miami pitchers combined on a four-hitter and allowed one walk after giving up 10 bases on balls in each of the first two games of the series.

Elieser Hernandez (3-5) gave up two runs in six innings. Ryne Stanek pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his first career save.

Rhys Hoskins hit his 25th homer for Philadelphia.

PIRATES 9, REDS 8

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Trevor Bauer had another rocky outing for Cincinnati, allowing eight runs in three innings as Pittsburgh swept a three-game series.

Since being acquired from the Cleveland Indians prior to the July 31 trade deadline, Bauer (10-11) is 1-3 with a 7.62 ERA in five starts. Seven of the runs charged to him Sunday were earned, and he had two walks and two strikeouts.

Eugenio Suarez's leadoff home run in the ninth inning drew the Reds within a run, but Felipe Vazquez retired the last three hitters for his 23rd save in 25 opportunities.

Dario Agrazal (3-3) allowed four runs in five innings to end his three-game losing streak. The rookie struck out five and walked two. □

Yankees slug 3 HRs off Kershaw to beat Dodgers 5-1

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — DJ LeMahieu, Aaron Judge and Mike Ford homered, Domingo Germán outdueled Clayton Kershaw for his major league-leading 17th win, and New York defeated Los Angeles.

The Yankees set a major league record for most homers in a month with 61 in August. They slugged nine in taking two of three games in a potential World Series preview to remain tied with Houston for the best record in the American League at 85-47.

Germán (17-3) allowed one run and five hits in six innings.

Kershaw (13-3) gave up three homers for the second straight game. The three-time Cy Young Award winner allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings. He struck out a season-high 12 and walked none.

Kershaw had won 11 consecutive interleague decisions, and each of his last six decisions overall.

Ford came off the bench in the third when Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius exited a couple of innings after getting hit by a pitch from Kershaw. Gregorius sustained a bruised right shoulder and was to have X-rays at the ballpark later. Ford homered to extend the Yankees' lead to 3-1 in the sixth. His RBI double to deep left field made it 4-1 in the eighth.

Judge, who wears No. 99, launched his 99th career homer in the third, snapping a 1-all tie. In the bottom half, Brett Gardner robbed Corey Seager of a potential three-run homer. LeMahieu and Joc Pederson traded leadoff homers in the first.

GIANTS 5, ATHLETICS 4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Evan Longoria homered early and hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh inning as San Francisco rallied late again to beat Oakland for a two-

game sweep.

Donovan Solano added four hits and an RBI for the Giants in Bruce Bochy's 4,000th game as a major league manager. Buster Posey struck out four times and grounded into a double play.

Mark Canha homered twice for the Athletics, both off starter Logan Webb. Canha also struck out with the bases loaded to end the fifth.

Oakland remains a half-game behind Tampa Bay for the second AL wild card. Sam Coonrod (4-0) retired three batters and Will Smith pitched the ninth for his 30th save.

Jake Diekman (1-7) took the loss.

TWINS 7, TIGERS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — C.J. Cron and Jonathan Schoop homered, Martín Pérez pitched six solid innings and Minnesota beat last-place Detroit to increase its AL Central lead to 3½ games over Cleveland.

Cron's three-run shot broke open a 2-0 game in the fourth and gave Pérez (9-5) plenty of cushion to work with. The left-hander allowed two runs and five hits for his first win since July 5. Tigers lefty Matthew Boyd (6-10) permitted just four hits but was tagged for seven runs in six innings. He walked a season-high five.

ROYALS 9, INDIANS 8, 10 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ryan O'Hearn led off the 10th inning with his second homer of the game, sending Kansas City to a wild win over the Cleveland Indians, whose playoff hopes were rocked by losing third baseman Jose Ramírez to a broken right hand.

The Indians tied it in the ninth against Ian Kennedy (1-2) on a solo homer by Francisco Lindor and Franmil Reyes' stunning three-run shot with two outs. Reyes also homered leading off the eighth.



New York Yankees starting pitcher Domingo German throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

O'Hearn connected off Nick Goody (3-1) as the Royals salvaged a back-and-forth series finale to snap a four-game losing streak. O'Hearn also homered in the third against Indians starter Shane Bieber. Jorge López worked the 10th for his first major league save.

Losing the game was secondary to the Indians, who will be without Ramírez for their playoff push. The two-time All-Star will undergo surgery Monday in New York to repair a fractured hamate bone, and the club won't know his recovery time until after the procedure.

ASTROS 11, ANGELS 2

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Altuve homered to cap a seven-run eighth inning, Framber Valdez grinded through six gritty innings and Houston beat Los Angeles.

Alex Bregman, Abraham Toro, Josh Reddick and Altuve all drove in runs in the eighth. Altuve's homer was his 24th, tying a career high. Houston has won seven of eight. The club entered the

day tied with the Yankees for the best record in the AL at 84-47.

Valdez (4-6) gave up one run, two hits and five walks but struck out eight.

Jaime Barria (4-7) only gave up two runs but still was stuck with his fourth-straight loss. Barria allowed three hits, struck out four and walked three in 5 1/3 innings.

ORIOLES 8, RAYS 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Anthony Santander went 5 for 5 with a homer, Renato Núñez drove in three runs and Baltimore beat Tampa Bay for a split of the four-game series.

Rays opener Diego Castillo (2-7) gave up one run over two innings before Jalen Beeks was roughed up for seven runs and 11 hits in five innings.

Tampa Bay loaded the bases with one out in the fourth before Dylan Bundy (6-13) got Joey Wendle to bounce into a double play, one of four turned by the Orioles.

WHITE SOX 2, RANGERS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Reynaldo López (8-11) pitched

five no-hit innings before leaving with dehydration and flu-like symptoms and Chicago beat Texas.

José Abreu drove in both runs to reach 100 RBIs for the fifth time in six seasons. Alex Colomé worked around a walk in the ninth to earn his 25th save after Aaron Bummer allowed Texas' first hit in the sixth.

Brock Burke (0-1) allowed a run and two hits over six innings.

MARINERS 3, BLUE JAYS 1

SEATTLE (AP) — Marco Gonzales (14-10) pitched three-hit ball over seven innings to get his career-best 14th win, Dylan Moore hit a solo homer and Seattle beat Toronto.

Matt Magill allowed a one-out double to Derek Fisher in the ninth but struck out Teoscar Hernandez and got Brandon Drury to fly out to first baseman Austin Nola in foul territory for his fourth save.

Moore started the scoring with Seattle's first hit, sending a 2-1 pitch from Clay Buchholz (0-3) over the left-center field wall for his sixth home run. □

Frustrated with event ticketing? New ventures try to help

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Event organizers hoping to eliminate ticket scams and huge markups in the secondary market are increasingly turning to companies that use technology to allow fans to buy and resell their tickets while putting caps on prices.

Partnering with such companies allows event organizers to take control of the resale of their tickets. Fans who can't go can return their tickets, which can be reissued to someone who wants to go, helping ensure that venues are filled with fans.

"As in many other areas of our economy, technology is racing ahead to try and address some of the issues that we and others have identified — and any consumer who has tried to buy a ticket recently can probably attest to," said John Breyault of the National Consumers League.

The U.S. ticketing industry is sporadically regulated: Pursuit of those who violate the law by using ticket-buying software known as bots is rare, and laws capping the resale price of tickets are difficult to enforce.

"I think it's great that there's a lot of entrepreneurial activity in this space because this market is pretty broken, but I also think some government intervention would help too," said Eric Budish, a University of Chicago economics professor. Sound Nightclub in Los Angeles decided to work with London-based mobile ticketing company Dice to make sure that fans pay the price they've set — usually \$15 to \$30 for musical



In this photo taken Friday, June 21, 2019, FlipTix CEO Jaime Siegel demonstrates his company's application at the Clusterfest comedy event in San Francisco.

Associated Press

acts — and don't end up with fake tickets.

"We make a really, really concerted effort to keep our ticket prices as low as we possibly can to make sure that people have a good fan experience," said Megan Gaver, director of operations at Sound Nightclub.

Tickets to events are bought on the Dice app, then delivered and linked to the buyer's cellphone. If an event sells out, a waitlist starts. Ticketholders who can't make it can return tickets for a full refund. The app also lets someone send their ticket to a friend. "We just cut off the scalpers' supply completely," said Shanna Jade, head of music for North America for

Dice.

The secondary market, though, does give those buying and selling tickets options: Sellers can pick the asking prices, and buyers may be able to find tickets at below face value.

Aimee Campbell, a spokeswoman for StubHub, the world's largest ticket marketplace, said that on average, about half of their tickets sell for face value or below. She also said the notion of face value is "becoming fairly obsolete" as some primary ticket sellers have started adjusting ticket prices based on demand.

"We do believe that an open market — where the market sort of figures itself out — is going to ultimately

be better," Campbell said, adding that her company offers guarantees to buyers and sellers.

With the San Francisco-based online ticket exchange Lyte, those returning tickets to sold out shows are offered a price — usually a full refund though sometimes a bit more or a bit less, depending on how oversold they are, said CEO and founder Ant Taylor. Tickets are resold at price lower than they're going for on the secondary market, he said.

"What actually ends up happening is the scalpers who are sitting in the secondary market are having a much harder time finding buyers and making money," Taylor said. "And so it

has the effect of actually driving those crazy secondary market prices down."

Those working with Lyte have included Mumford & Sons, the Newport Folk Festival and the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Thomas Cussins, president of Oakland, California-based Ineffable Music, which owns and operates clubs and festivals, said the number of their tickets that are scalped was cut in half by partnering with Lyte.

Newport Beach, California-based FlipTix focuses on selling the time remaining if someone leaves an event like a festival. CEO Jaime Siegel said tickets aren't sold for above face value and what the seller gets varies from event to event.

Kaaboo Texas partnered with FlipTix for its multiday festival in Arlington, Texas, in May. Other partners have included Clusterfest, a comedy festival in San Francisco, and the Sonic Temple Art and Music Festival in Columbus, Ohio.

Ali Coffman, 37, of Oklahoma City, planned to attend just one day of Kaaboo Texas, so when family members wanted to go the next day, she decided to try FlipTix, which she had just heard about.

"It's very easy, foolproof. If you have a smartphone, anybody can do it," she said.

Coffman said she almost always buys tickets from the venue, so it wasn't until she confirmed with the box office that FlipTix was partnered with the festival that she bought from them.

"I'm very cautious about buying tickets because I've had so many friends

British airports to introduce 3D screening for carry-on bags

LONDON (AP) — Putting small containers of liquids in plastic bags could soon be a thing of the past for airline passengers in Britain after the government announced plans Sunday to introduce 3D screening equipment for carry-on luggage at all major air-

ports.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said in a statement that the new technology will improve security and could also mean "an end to passengers having to use plastic bags or rationing what they take away with them."

Under current security restrictions, passengers are not allowed containers carrying more than 100 milliliters (3.38 fluid ounces) of liquids in their carry-on luggage and the containers have to be in a clear plastic bag. That could come to an end

under the new screening regime and passengers may also be able to keep electrical equipment such as their laptops in their cabin bags. The screeners already are being used in trials at London's Heathrow Airport and they will progressively be rolled out

to other British airports by Dec. 1, 2022, the government said. Heathrow CEO John Holland Kaye says the technology "will transform the passenger experience, making air travel simple, streamlined and more secure through the U.K.'s only hub airport." □

US stocks climb amid signs of a thaw in US-China trade war

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

Stocks marched broadly higher on Wall Street in mid-day trading Monday after President Donald Trump claimed China was willing to reopen talks on the costly trade war that has roiled markets and dimmed the outlook for global economic growth.

Uncertainty remained high, however, about the next developments in the trade dispute, which has repeatedly seen the sides attempt to negotiate before ending in acrimony and more tariffs and trade penalties.

Big technology companies, which do a lot of business in China and have much riding on the outcome of the trade dispute, rose the most. Apple climbed 1.7%.

Health care and communications services stocks also contributed to the gains as the market clawed back some of its heavy losses from last week, which marked its fourth straight weekly loss. On Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 600 points after Washington and Beijing threatened a new round of tariffs on each other's goods.

The escalation in the trade conflict had global markets



This Aug. 23, 2019, file photo shows the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

Associated Press

headed for another sell-off until Trump said his trade negotiators had received two "very good calls" from China on Sunday. China's foreign ministry replied, however, that it didn't know what Trump was talking about.

"It always seems that Trump, after he does something to freak the market out or escalate this trade war, he tries to dial it back to some degree," said Brad Bernstein, senior portfolio

manager at UBS Wealth Management USA. "As an investor, you just have to know there's a lot of uncertainty and there is no clarity in the short term right now." The S&P 500 was up 0.8% as of 12:05 p.m. Eastern Time. The Dow gained 210 points, or 0.8%, to 25,845. The Nasdaq rose 0.9%. Major indexes in Germany and France rose. Markets in Britain were closed for a national holiday. In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng

and Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 closed lower. Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury held steady at 1.52%. Oil prices edged lower.

Energy services company TechnipFMC led the gainers in the S&P 500, climbing 5.2%. Gap fell the most, sliding 2.8%.

Stock markets have been volatile this summer as traders have been whipsawed by the turns in the trade

war between the world's biggest economies.

The conflict escalated once again on Friday, after China announced new tariffs on \$75 billion in U.S. goods. Trump responded angrily on Twitter, at one point saying he "hereby ordered" U.S. companies with operations in China to consider moving them to other countries, including the U.S. Trump also later announced that the U.S. would increase existing tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods to 30% from 25%, and that new tariffs on another \$300 billion of imports would be 15% instead of 10%.

Stephen Innes, managing partner at Valour Markets in Singapore, compared the difficulty of assessing the volatile market situation to reading tea leaves.

"Nobody understands where the president is coming from," he said, adding that the best thing Trump can do for market stability is to "keep quiet."

The market is now dominated by fears of a portending U.S. recession, although the American economy is actually holding up, and much of the U.S. economy is made up of consumption, Innes said. □

German business confidence declines to near 7-year low

By GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German business confidence has fallen for a fifth consecutive month and hit a nearly seven-year low, a closely watched survey found Monday — adding to mounting worries that Europe's biggest economy is headed for a recession.

The Ifo institute said its monthly confidence index declined to 94.3 points in August from 95.8 in July. Managers' views of the current situation and the outlook for the next six months both worsened.

It was the lowest reading for the index since November 2012. Ifo's head, Clemens Fuest, said "there are ever more indications of a

recession in Germany." The survey is based on responses from some 9,000 firms and is a leading indicator of the health of the economy.

The German economy contracted by 0.1% in the April-June period and the country's central bank, the Bundesbank, said last week it "could decline slightly" again in the summer. A technical recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann warned against excessive pessimism in a weekend newspaper interview, saying that he sees "no reason to panic." He noted that Germany is coming off a long upswing

with healthy employment and said "the outlook is particularly uncertain at the moment," citing political factors such as Brexit and international trade conflicts.

Still, Ifo's latest survey showed an across-the-board decline in confidence. In the manufacturing sector, "the last time that industrial companies demonstrated such pessimism was in the crisis year of 2009," Fuest said. He added that "not a single ray of light was to be seen in any of Germany's key industries."

ING economist Carsten Brzeski said the latest Ifo report "suggests the risk of a negative sentiment loop is larger than ever."

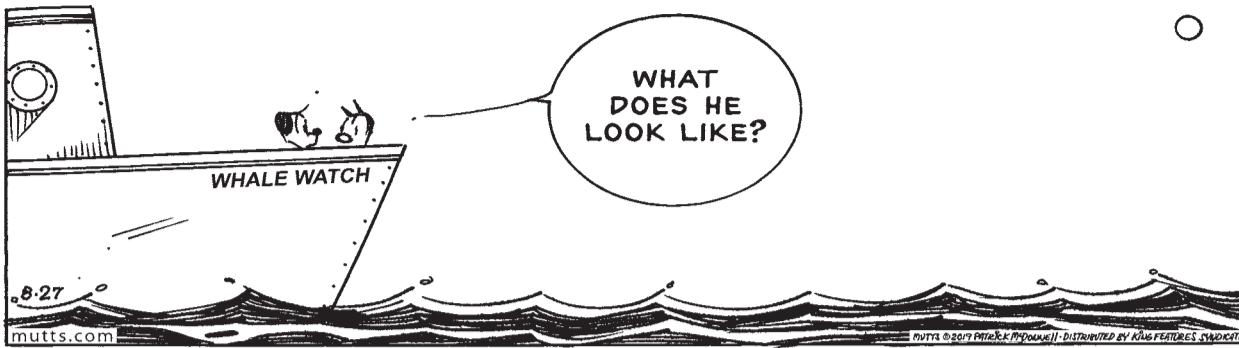


The sun rises next to the European Central Bank at the river Main in Frankfurt, Germany, early Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

"It would take some relief from the ongoing trade conflicts and a general sentiment improvement to boost industrial activity at least toward the end of the year," he said. While signs of damage to the domestic economy are only "tentative so far," he added that they "could easily mutate into severe problems." □

Mutts



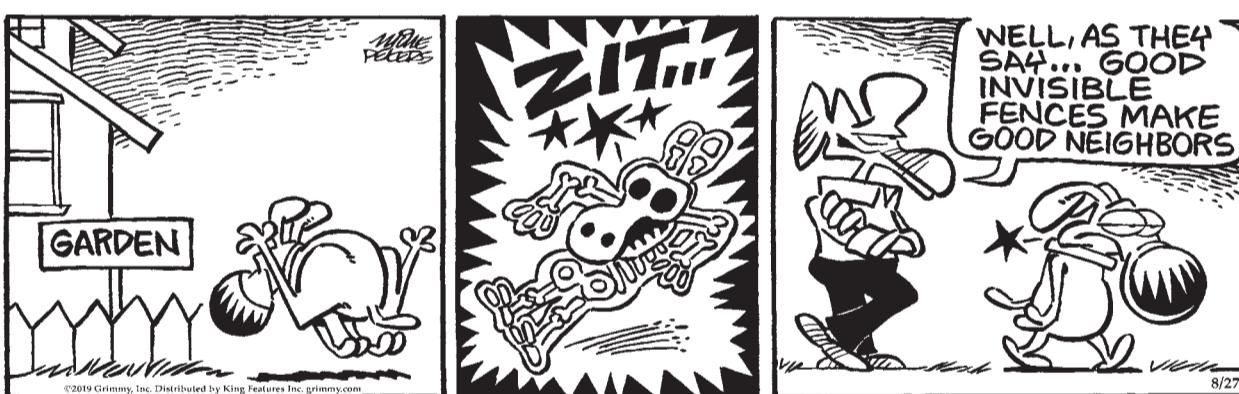
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5	2	4		3	6
8			1		
		6		9	2
9	6	2			9
1	6		9	2	
7	3	6			2
6		2			
	8			3	
7	4	5	2	1	

Difficulty Level ★★

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8/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	8	9	3	4	6	1	5	7
3	5	7	1	8	9	4	2	6
4	1	6	2	7	5	3	8	9
6	4	5	7	3	2	9	1	8
1	3	8	9	5	4	6	7	2
7	9	2	8	6	1	5	3	4
9	7	4	5	1	8	2	6	3
8	6	1	4	2	3	7	9	5
5	2	3	6	9	7	8	4	1

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14		15					16			
17				18					19			
20		21							22			
			23					24	25			
26	27	28			29	30				31	32	33
				35						36		
37			38						39			
40		41						42				
43		44						45				
				46				47				
48	49	50			51	52	53			54	55	
56				57					58		59	
60				61					62			
63			64						65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/27/19

Monday's Puzzle Solved

COD	RAMBO	TOS	
HOM	EAGA	INRICO	
OWNS	VERNACULAR		
CSI	CENTS	HASTE	
POINT	VIN		
SHOATS	MENTOR		
PETTY	DIANA	VIA	
AXES	WORST	LESS	
TEN	MALES	PARKA	
STROLL	JACLYN		
AUK	RODEO		
NORMS	SOAKS	OFF	
EXUBERANCE	SKIT		
CELL	ULCER	HERD	
KNEE	BEERS	YDS	

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8/27/19

DOWN

1 Family member
2 Garden man
3 One of the Three
4 Bears
4 Relieve
4 someone's doubt

5 Being in debt
58 ___-do-well; bum
60 Wrapped up
61 ___ pie
62 Fence door
63 Warp
64 Concluded
65 Youth

33 Bread ingredient
35 Dunce cap's shape
38 Tedious
39 ___ on to; keeping

41 Slammer
42 Kicked the bucket
44 In the direction of
45 Burned the edges of
47 Knight's spear
48 Sci-fi villain

49 Wild party
50 Chef's need
52 Look-alike
53 Lemon peel
54 Actor McDonough
55 ___ rise out of; provoke
59 Mr. Skelton

\$10,000 reward offered for arrest of wild burro killers

By JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Someone has been killing the wild burros of California's Mojave Desert, and the Bureau of Land Management is offering up to \$10,000 to anyone who can help catch the culprit or culprits. Over the past three months, 42 burro carcasses containing gunshot wounds have been found scattered along a 60-mile (95-kilometer) stretch of Interstate 15, the main highway linking Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The animals, like wild horses,

are protected under federal law. Anyone found guilty of harassing, branding or killing one faces a fine of up to \$2,000 and a year in jail.

More than that, burros are an enduring symbol of the American Southwest. With their pointy ears and distinctive "Hee-Haw" voices, they evoke a time when their sure-footedness in rocky terrain and ability to carry heavy loads long distances without complaint made them perfect pack animals for prospectors and others. □

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Week 27 Unit 2520 - \$3,200
Week 27 Unit 2147 - \$5,000
Week 30 Unit 2546 - \$5,500
Week 30 Unit 2307 - \$3,500
Week 31 Unit 2307 - \$3,500
Week 33 Unit 2535 - \$8,000
Week 36 Unit 2315 - \$2,000

La Cabana BRC
Week 29 Unit 419D - \$2,000 (Incl. T. Fee)
Week 30 Unit 419D - \$2,000 (Incl. T. Fee)
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Giraffes move closer to endangered species protection

By JAMEY KEATEN

GENEVA (AP) — Nations around the world moved Thursday to protect giraffes as an endangered species for the first time, drawing praise from conservationists and scowls from some sub-Saharan African nations. Thursday's vote by a key committee at the World Wildlife Conference known as CITES paves the way for the measure's likely approval by its plenary next week.

The plan would regulate world trade in giraffe parts, including hides, bone carvings and meat, while stopping short of a full ban. It passed 106-21 with seven abstentions.

"So many people are so familiar with giraffes that they think they're abundant," said Susan Lieberman, vice president of international policy for the Wildlife Con-

servation Society. "And in Southern Africa, they may be doing OK, but giraffes are critically endangered." Lieberman said giraffes were particularly at risk in parts of West, Central and East Africa.

The Wildlife Conservation Society said it was concerned about the multiple threats to giraffes that have already resulted in population decline, citing habitat loss, droughts worsened by climate change and the illegal killings and trade in giraffe body parts.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental advocacy group, hailed the move, noting that giraffes are a vulnerable species facing habitat loss and population decline. A key African conservationist said it could help reverse drops in giraffe populations, as the move



In this Tuesday, March 20, 2018 file photo, giraffes and zebras congregate under the shade of a tree in the afternoon in Mikumi National Park, Tanzania.

Associated Press

would help better track numbers of giraffes.

"The giraffe has experienced over 40% decline in the last 30 years, said Maina Philip Muruthi of the African Wildlife Foundation. "If that trend continues, it means that we are headed toward extinction."

Still, not all African countries supported the move.

"We see no reason as to why we should support this decision, because Tanzania has a stable and increasing population of giraffes," said Maurus Msuha, director of wildlife at the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Re-

sources and Tourism. "Over 50% of our giraffe population is within the Serengeti ecosystem, which is well protected. Why should we then go for this?"

CITES says the population of wild giraffes is actually much smaller than that of wild African elephants.

"We're talking about a few tens of thousands of giraffes and we're talking about a few hundreds of thousands of African elephants," said Tom De Meulenaar, chief of scientific services at CITES. He said the convention was intended to specifically address the international trade in giraffes and their parts.

"With fewer giraffes than elephants in Africa, it was a no-brainer to simply regulate giraffe exports," said Tanya Sanerib, international legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity. □

Massive juniper tree-cutting project aims to aid sage grouse

By KEITH RIDLER

Associated Press

MURPHY, Idaho (AP) — The largest-ever project in the U.S. to remove thousands of juniper trees to help imperiled sage grouse has started in Idaho.

Junipers provide perches for raptors that attack and kill sage grouse. Junipers also force out sagebrush and other plants that produce bugs that sage grouse eat. Sage grouse also feed on the sagebrush during the winter.

Overall, sage grouse numbers have dwindled from an estimated 16 million before European settlement of the West to no more than 500,000 today in 11 western states.

The project that began last spring in Idaho aims to remove junipers on 965



This Aug. 15, 2019 photo shows a juniper tree cut down as part of a giant project to remove junipers encroaching on sagebrush habitat needed by imperiled sage grouse in southwestern Idaho.

Associated Press

square miles (2,500 square kilometers) of state and federal land.

"What we're doing here is turning the sagebrush steppe habitat that's marginal nesting habitat for

grouse into immediate, quality nesting habitat for grouse," said Josh White of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sage grouse are chicken-sized, ground-dwelling birds considered an indicator species for the health of vast sagebrush landscapes in the West that support some 350 species of wildlife. Experts generally attribute their decline to road construction, development and oil and gas leasing.

The project that is estimated to take 10 to 15 years could become a template

for other western states as junipers have expanded because of fire-suppression efforts. Juniper-removal projects have been carried out before, but not on this scale.

Environmental groups fought the Idaho project contending it was being driven by grazing interests. "When you remove vegetation and disturb the ground, that's when invasive species come in," said Scott Lake of Western Watersheds Project, citing fire-prone cheatgrass in particular.

But federal officials gave the final approval earlier this year. Some cutting was done in the spring, and the pace picked up in the last three weeks with crews of 50 to 60 workers with chain saws cutting down junipers. "Historically, fire would have kept these trees in check," said Ben Sitz of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. "We're trying to preserve the diversity we have."

The project is designed around sage grouse breeding grounds, called leks, where males perform elaborate rituals. The proj-

ect area contains numerous leks, both active and abandoned as junipers moved in.

Radio-telemetry on sage grouse has determined that leks ideally have no or few trees within a 6-mile (9.5-kilometer) radius, which gives nesting sage grouse hens the best chance to raise their chicks. That means each lek needs about 115 square miles (295 square kilometers) of treeless sagebrush. The project aims to cut down junipers within that distance of leks.

Junipers are being cut where sagebrush still covers most of the ground. Thicker stands of junipers that have pushed out sagebrush are being left as those areas would take decades to become suitable sage grouse habitat. But those thicker stands could be targeted for a future project.

Rancher and Owyhee County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland said ranchers want the junipers removed to improve cattle grazing. Ranchers have "been recognizing the effects of the junipers over the years," he said, noting cut areas have led to more water. □

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Biggest ever Kentridge show explores Africa's history

By ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Evocative videos, graphic tapestries, charcoal drawings, woodcut prints, sculptures and immersive sound installations combine in the largest single show by South African artist William Kentridge to explore compelling themes including South Africa's apartheid history and the participation of Africans in World War I.

Surveying the work of Kentridge's prolific 43-year career in many mediums, the show brims over at two locations, The Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art at Cape Town's waterfront and sculptures at the Norval Foundation in the Steenberg vineyards nearby.

"Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings to Work," opening Sunday, draws its title from the words of an African conscripted to fight in the First World War, who was faced with a difficult choice: risk death in the war or refuse to serve and face persecution by the colonial regime.

Kentridge, the son of anti-apartheid lawyer Sydney Kentridge, who represented Nelson Mandela, told The Associated Press that social and political com-



South African artist William Kentridge, left, at the opening of his exhibition in Cape Town, South Africa, Friday, Aug. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

mentary have inspired his work.

"I didn't consciously or disingenuously decide to include political and social reflections into my artistic purpose. However, I grew up in South Africa, in which it was, and is, impossible to avoid politics," said Kentridge. "I was aware from a young age of living in an unnatural rather than a natural society, and later, recognizing contradiction as a central category to understanding society."

The show starts with Kentridge's early charcoal drawings from the 1970s and moves to his etchings, large graphics and videos, evoking the tensions of South Africa's violent struggle against apartheid, the system of racial discrimination that ended in 1994. Wide-screen video and sound installations take the viewer through dream-like journeys in history and provoke questions about the present and the future. Kentridge said that work-

ing to mount such an expansive show of his work, including 50% of his video installations and 60% of his sculptures, made him think about the historic sweep of changes in South Africa. "South Africa has changed enormously. I was a student in 1976 when there was the Soweto students' uprising and then a young artist when the country was in a state of emergency. I had 30 years of life under apartheid and now nearly 30 years after apartheid,"

he told AP. "South Africa has changed enormously and yet South African has changed hardly at all. Many aspects of daily life here are still the same."

The exhibit fills up several floors of the Museum of Contemporary African Art. The dizzying amount of work "is interspersed with rooms designed for reflection, such as a library where people can sit and look at elements of inspiration, a workshop showing how Kentridge's prints are produced and the tapestry room which has seating to contemplate the fabrics mounted on the walls. There is also an area for children.

Kentridge's sculptures, from the small to the monumental are displayed at the Norval Foundation gallery set among Cape Town's vineyards in Steenberg.

"I call it anti-sculpture," said Kentridge of the work. "It is not like traditional sculpture where it looks the same as you walk around it. My sculptures occupy space, but there is only one spot where it all pulls together. From other angles you see all the different parts in a kind of exploded or chaotic way. It shows how we construct coherence from what is a chaotic reality around us." □

Harvard librarian Hester Thursby returns in 'Missing Ones'

By OLIVE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

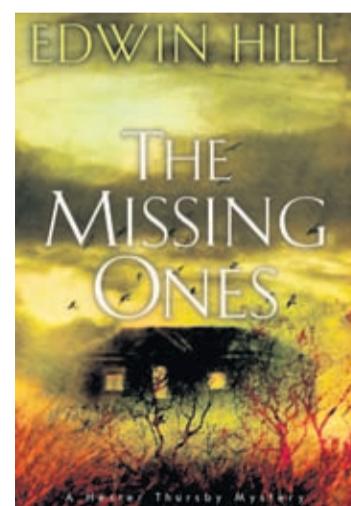
"The Missing Ones" (Kensington), by Edwin Hill. The pain that remains following a traumatic event is never easy to overcome, often influencing one's behavior and life choices, as Edwin Hill shows in his second novel about Harvard librarian Hester Thursby. The intense "The Missing Ones" poignantly looks at the fragility of emotional health and the pitfalls of trying to make a fresh start.

In addition to her career as a librarian, Hester has a knack for finding missing people. But the results of her investigation in the Agatha-nominated "Little

Comfort" have left her emotionally paralyzed, unable to force herself to go to work or to allow Kate, her 4-year-old ward, to attend kindergarten. Hester has been raising Kate since her mother, Daphne, abandoned her. No one knows where Daphne is. Hester's link with — and love for — Kate is strong as Daphne is Hester's best friend since college and the twin sister of her live-in boyfriend, Morgan Maguire.

Hester and Kate spend their days roaming their hometown of Somerville, Massachusetts, and hiding their absences from work and school from Morgan and their friends.

Fear and tension permeate the small community of Finisterre Island, eight miles off the coast of Maine, where children have gone missing, only to be found unharmed days later. The island's residents aren't welcoming to outsiders, even to those seasonal tourists whose money is the area's lifeblood. The island also "brings people from away looking to disappear," and Finisterre offers plenty of hiding places, especially the dilapidated Victorian house that attracts addicts and drifters. Annie is one of those squatters who live in the Victorian house, but her fear of her past — and the island's residents — in-



This cover image released by Kensington shows "The Missing Ones," a mystery by Edwin Hill.

Associated Press

creases daily as she uncovers others' secrets.

"The Missing Ones" seam-

lessly alternates between Hester's inner turmoil and the residents who live on Finisterre where the librarian eventually arrives to help.

Hill creates believable interior chaos in Hester, who seems powerless to control her anxieties, leading her to make bad decisions. Hill's talent for storytelling translates well to Finisterre, where many lead lives of quiet desperation fueled by unresolved ambitions, unfulfilled love and unpredictable resentment.

Hill's affinity for creating realistic characters with complicated personalities and suspenseful plots shines in "The Missing Ones." □

Disney teases 'Star Wars,' 'Frozen 2,' more at convention

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — At the Walt Disney Company's biannual D23 convention, a faint image of the "Star Wars" character Emperor Palpatine in the background of a new poster can cause as much of a stir as actual appearances from movie stars such as Angelina Jolie and Dwayne Johnson. But that's no surprise for the most powerful studio in

the world, whose characters are stars as big, if not bigger, than the A-listers playing them — at least for the people attending the company's fan convention. Even the word "fan" is too impersonal for this kind of loyalty. As Walt Disney Studios co-chairman Alan Horn told the audience Saturday: "You're not just fans, you're family."

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People line up in front of the Anaheim Convention Center during the 2019 D23 Expo on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

people packed a giant convention hall in Anaheim on Saturday hoping to get a look at or at least more information about Disney properties coming to theaters in the next few years, including "Star Wars: Episode IX — The Rise of Skywalker," "Frozen 2," "Black Panther 2," "Black Widow," "Cruella," "Soul" and more, with a parade of stars such as Jolie, Johnson, Chris Pratt, Tom Holland, Jamie Foxx, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Daisy Ridley all gracing the stage to help drum up excitement for all that's to come. Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad and Jonathan Groff even serenaded the audience with a performance of a new song from "Frozen 2" as fake fall leaves fell down on the audience like confetti to close out the presentation. Disney kicked things off with "Star Wars," revealing a new poster, which every audience member got a copy of, and glimpses of some new footage from "Star Wars: Episode IX — The Rise of Skywalker." The film, which hits theaters Dec. 20, ends the Skywalker saga that began over 40 years ago.

Anthony Daniels, who has played the droid C-3PO since the beginning seemed to get a bit choked up on stage. "It's kind of hard for me to

understand that the story is ending, but what an ending," Daniels said. "You'll love it."

He was joined on stage by fellow original trilogy veteran Billy Dee Williams, and the stars of the new trilogy — Ridley, Oscar Isaac and John Boyega — as well as writer-director J.J. Abrams. Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy promised that the film "is an incredibly good time."

But "Star Wars" itself is hardly ending for Disney.

"With the close of this chapter, the future is wide open," Horn said. The studio on Friday debuted a new trailer for the Disney Plus series "The Mandalorian" to great enthusiasm.

Not all reveals are created equal at D23, however. For "Black Panther 2," writer-director Ryan Coogler was only able to disclose a release date: May 6, 2022. For "Jungle Cruise," both Johnson and Emily Blunt bantered on stage about their theme park ride adaptation, showing a fair amount of teaser footage for the film coming to theaters next summer that they say is tonally similar to fun adventure epics such as "Indiana Jones" and "Romancing the Stone." And Emma Stone, via video message, teased that the "101 Dalmatians" spinoff "Cruella" has a "punk rock"

vibe and is set in London in the 1970s.

The audience got extended looks at the live-action "Mulan," "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil," the animated films "Raya and the Last Dragon" and "Frozen 2," which co-director Chris Buck said works together with "Frozen" to form "one complete film."

Various casting decisions were also announced in films across the brands. Evan Rachel Wood will be voicing the mother in "Frozen 2," and Sterling K. Brown is playing a character named Lieutenant Matthias. Kit Harington is officially on board to join the Marvel film "The Eternals," which will reunite him with his "Game of Thrones" co-star Richard Madden, as is "Crazy Rich Asians" star Gemma Chan. And Foxx, Tina Fey, Questlove, Phylicia Rashad and Daveed Diggs are leading the voice cast for Pixar's jazz-themed film "Soul."

"Soul" director Pete Docter, taking the stage for the first time as Pixar's chief creative officer, said that in his nearly 30 years at Pixar they've come up with some "weird ideas."

Expected in theaters in June 2020, "Soul" is one of two original Pixar films coming next year. The other is "Onward" about elf brothers voiced by Pratt and Holland. □

Cecilia Bartoli talks, again, of US return

By MIKE SILVERMAN

Associated Press

SALZBURG, Austria (AP) —

There was a time a generation ago when Cecilia Bartoli's many U.S. fans could count on seeing her regularly in opera or in concert. The Italian mezzo-soprano noted for her warm sound, dramatic intensity and dazzling coloratura agility had shot to fame in the early 1990s while still in her 20s on the strength of best-selling recordings of Rossini and Mozart. Her every appearance just about guaranteed a sellout.

But that was then. She last sang at the Metropolitan Opera in 1998, hasn't been seen at Carnegie Hall since 2009, canceled a West Coast concert tour in 2015 and has stayed mostly in Europe, giving rise only to occasional rumors of an imminent return.

"You're right, it's time, it's time," Bartoli said in an interview earlier this month in Salzburg, where she was appearing in the title role of Handel's "Alcina."

"I have to come back before I go to pension," she added with her infectious laugh, making clear that at age 53 and still in prime vocal form that she has no



This photo provided by Salzburg Festival shows Cecilia Bartoli from the 2019 Salzburg Festival's production of the opera "Alcina" in Salzburg, Austria.

Associated Press

intention of retiring anytime soon.

Bartoli said she has had "discussions" with both the Met and Carnegie Hall. "It would be nice to come for a longer period than just a concert and then leave," she said wistfully. "So we'll see."

As for the Met, general manager Peter Gelb said the company "has invited Ms. Bartoli back many

times, but so far to no avail. We would be very happy were she to return."

Her motives for staying away are difficult to pin down. Bartoli, who lives in Zurich, Switzerland, and Rome with her husband, cites the fact that "I don't like to fly" and speaks of the difficulty of making an Atlantic crossing by ship during the U.S. opera season. But she has flown to Austra-

lia and Asia, and given the modest size of her voice, the reason may have as much to do with concerns about finding the right repertory and venue for a return.

Bartoli has specialized in baroque and bel canto works from the 18th- and early 19th-centuries and favors the use of period instruments rather than the fuller modern orchestra. In

Salzburg's 1,500-seat Haus fur Mozart, accompanied by Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco — an orchestra she founded — her every utterance as Alcina came through with riveting clarity. But she worries that might not be the case in a bigger house with a bigger orchestra.

"Mostly when you sing in the opera house you have this wall of sound in front of you and the only thing is to go and sing as loud as you can, and this is not making music," she said. "It's 80 against one, and you will never win."

Another obstacle to an extended U.S. visit might be finding time. Beyond keeping a full schedule of performances and recordings and nurturing an orchestra, Bartoli lends her name to a foundation dedicated to bringing classical music to a wider audience, researches neglected composers and singers of earlier eras, and runs Salzburg's annual Whitsun Festival. That last assignment is a special point of pride for Bartoli. "I never thought in my life to be able to do something like that," she said. "To make a festival, to organize, to invite artists." □

Elliott, Swift set to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — 2019 is

the year of Missy Elliott: The rap icon became the first female rapper inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame earlier this year and she will also earn the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at Monday's MTV Video Music Awards. Elliott, who has released colorful, eccentric and groundbreaking music videos throughout her career, will receive the lifetime achievement honor at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. It's the first time MTV have held its annual awards show in New Jersey.

Elliott will also perform live during the show, which

kicks off at 8 p.m. Taylor Swift, who released her new album, "Lover," last Friday, will also hit the stage. Other performers include Lizzo, Normani, Bad Bunny, Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello, H.E.R., J Balvin, Lil Nas X, Rosalia, Big Sean, Ozuna, A\$AP Ferg and Jonas Brothers. Megan Thee Stallion, Ava Max and CNCO will perform during the pre-show.

Swift tied with Ariana Grande as the most nominated act at the VMAs, including bids for video of the year. Swift's gay pride anthem, "You Need to Calm Down," and Grande's breezy hit about her breakups, "thank u, next," are nominated for the top prize alongside Billie Eilish's "Bad

Guy," Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus' "Old Town Road," 21 Savage and J. Cole's "A Lot," and Jonas Brothers' "Sucker."

Grande is also up for artist of the year, competing with Cardi B, Shawn Mendes, Halsey, Jonas Brothers and Eilish, whose song "Bad Guy" recently displaced "Old Town Road" from the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper's Oscar- and Grammy-winning hit "Shallow" is competing in two categories: song of the year and best collaboration. Boy band BTS earned four nominations, including a bid in the new best K-pop category. And late rapper Nipsey



In this Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, file photo, a statue of the MTV Moon Man appears on the red carpet at the MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Associated Press

Hussle, who posthumously won best male hip-hop artist and the Humanitarian Award at the BET Awards in June, picked up a nomination for best hip-hop for

"Higher," his song and video with DJ Khaled and John Legend. Comedian and actor Sebastian Maniscalco will host the VMAs. □

Safe Bet: Vegas set to bid to host numerous NCAA events

NEW YORK (AP) — Las Vegas is going to take a chance on hosting major college sporting events. The city is set to bid on nearly a half dozen different NCAA championship events, including women's basketball.

The NCAA will start accepting bids Monday on nearly two dozen sports championships over all three divisions. This is the first year that Las Vegas is eligible to bid after the governing body for college sports indefinitely suspended a ban last year that prevented events from being hosted in states that accept wagers on single games.

George Kliavkoff, who is MGM's President of Entertainment and Sports, told The Associated Press last week that his group — in conjunction with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority — plan on bidding to host women's basketball as well as at least five other sports. Those could include the Frozen Four, wrestling and women's volleyball championships.

"We're looking for scaled opportunities. Sports that attract lots of fans and some places we can re-configure the way the events are held to attract more fans," he said.

Kliavkoff thinks Las Vegas is positioned well for women's basketball and its potential new regional format. The NCAA women's basketball committee suggested earlier this month changing the format for the regionals starting in 2023 by having two cities host eight teams each in the Sweet 16 instead of having four sites.

"Nevada is such a great place and Las Vegas is such an excellent place to hold a championship or regional," Kliavkoff said. "We're uniquely positioned since we have T-Mobile Arena, MGM Garden Arena and Mandalay Bay. We have three event centers. We have knowledge how to do this. There are dozens of hotels in town that have price points for every fan. We're a city that's easy to get to with direct non-stop



This Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017, file photo shows the Las Vegas skyline. Las Vegas is set to bid on nearly a half dozen different NCAA college championship events, including women's basketball.

Associated Press

flights from almost everywhere in the country."

Moving to a two-site format, the committee noted, would elevate and enhance the student-athlete experience, enhance broadcast coverage, create opportunity for growth of the sport and championship, build the brand of women's basketball and expand programming targeting strategic plan initiatives that were announced in the NCAA Women's Basketball Strategic Plan.

"We'll see how it falls out as bids come in," NCAA vice president for women's basketball Lynn Holzman

said. "It's new ground we're treading. Moving from four to two sites for regionals."

While Holzman wouldn't say whether Las Vegas has a leg-up on other cities, she is very familiar with basketball tournaments being played there. She was commissioner of the West Coast Conference, which has played its tournament in Las Vegas for the last decade.

Las Vegas would have no problems hosting eight teams and their fans in the new format. It would make sense for the NCAA to look at having one site on the West Coast and one on the East Coast for the new for-

mat to help with television windows for their partner ESPN. MGM also operates the arena in Springfield, Massachusetts, so the company could bid for an East Coast site, as well.

Mohegan Sun, which has hosted many college basketball events, as well as a WNBA team, has said it is considering bidding for the regional, too.

With regionals available from 2023-26 and the Final Four in 2025 and 2026, Kliavkoff said that he expects Las Vegas to put in a series of bids for them and other NCAA events.

"For the sports we're inter-



In this June 4, 2019, file photo, construction cranes surround the football stadium under construction in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

ested in, we'll try and get as many yeses as possible," he said. "We'll bid for multiple years. It probably will depend on the different sports we bid for. We think there are benefits to being a known place you come back every year."

The NCAA said it would help Las Vegas and other cities learn the details of putting in bids. The college governing body is hosting a NCAA Championship Hosting Symposium on Sept. 18. Women's basketball future sites will be announced in October 2020.

While the men's basketball Final Four isn't in this bid cycle, regionals are available from 2023-26. The men's basketball committee visited Las Vegas earlier this year and toured the new Oakland Raiders football stadium that will be ready next year, as well as T-Mobile Arena. Las Vegas would be interested in hosting those regionals as well. Potentially they could host the men's and women's regionals in the same year.

"Basketball is slowly realizing that Las Vegas is the second home for basketball in the United States," Kliavkoff said. "We have the summer league, the G-league. We are in discussion on bringing more here. We have the Aces. We have more and more college tournaments. This is the home for lots of AAU tournaments, high school tournaments and 3-on-3 basketball. We think of this as one of the best basketball homes in the country and continue to build on that. We'll put in bids for the years that are available. By definition, the men's and women's basketball will be overlapping a few years and we will be bidding on them."

With over 100,000 hotel rooms on the strip and the three venues, hosting both the men's and women's regionals wouldn't be a problem.

The College Football Playoff has two more championship game sites still to be chosen during the 12-year contract with ESPN that runs through the 2025 season. □